

L

L, l /el/ **L's**, l's or **Ls**, ls 1 the 12th letter of the English alphabet 2 the ROMAN NUMERAL (number) for 50 3 *AmE* *infml* ELEVATED RAILWAY

l written abbrev. for: 1 (often cap.) (on a map) lake 2 line 3 litre

la /lɑː/ *n* [S;U] the sixth note in the SOL-FA musical scale

LA¹ /,el 'ei-/ LOS ANGELES

LA² written abbrev. for: LOUISIANA

laa-ger /'lɑːgə/ *n* [S] (esp. in connection with politics in South Africa) a position of opposing all change and uniting to defend the existing social and political conditions: *Demands for major reforms may simply drive the whites back into their laager.* | *a laager mentality*

lab /læb/ *n* *infml* 1 for LABORATORY 2 LABRADOR

Lab written abbrev. for: LABOUR PARTY

la-bel¹ /'leɪbəl/ *n* a piece of paper or other material, fixed to something, which gives information about what it is, where it is to go, who owns it, etc.: *luggage labels* | *The label on the bottle says "Poison".* | *The group's latest hit record is on the Ace Sounds label.* (=is produced by the Ace Sounds record company)

label² *v* -ll- *BrE* || -l- *AmE* [T] 1 to fix or tie a label on: *Make sure your luggage is properly labelled.* [+obj+n/adj] *The doctor labelled the bottle poison/poisonous.* 2 [+obj+n/adj] to describe as belonging to a particular kind or class: *The newspapers had unjustly labelled him (as) a coward.*

la-bi-al /'leɪbiəl/ *n, adj* *tech* (a speech sound) made using one or both lips —compare BILABIAL

La Bo-hème /lɑː bəʊ'ɛm/ an OPERA written in 1896 by the Italian COMPOSER Giacomo Puccini. It tells the story of a young woman who falls in love with a painter and later dies.

la-bor-a-tory /lə'bɒrətɪ/ || 'læbrətɔːri/ *n* a special building or room in which a scientist works to examine, test, or prepare materials: *This is our new research laboratory.* | *a*

laboratory experiment | *laboratory animals* (=animals used for scientific tests) —see also LANGUAGE LABORATORY

Labor Day /'lɔːr deɪ/ in the US and Canada, the first Monday in September, taken as a public holiday. Labor Day was originally meant to honour workers, but now many people celebrate it as marking the end of summer. Many people have PICNICS or BARBECUES over **Labor Day Weekend** and enjoy having the extra day off work.

la-bo-ri-ous /lə'bɔːriəs/ *adj* 1 needing great effort: *Breaking up the stones was a laborious task.* 2 *derog* showing signs of being done with difficulty: *This essay of his is a laborious piece of work.* — ~ly *adv*: *They made their way laboriously up the mountainside.* — ~ness *n* [U]

labor u-nion /'lɔːr jən/ *n* *AmE* for TRADE UNION —see also AFL-CIO, TEAMSTERS

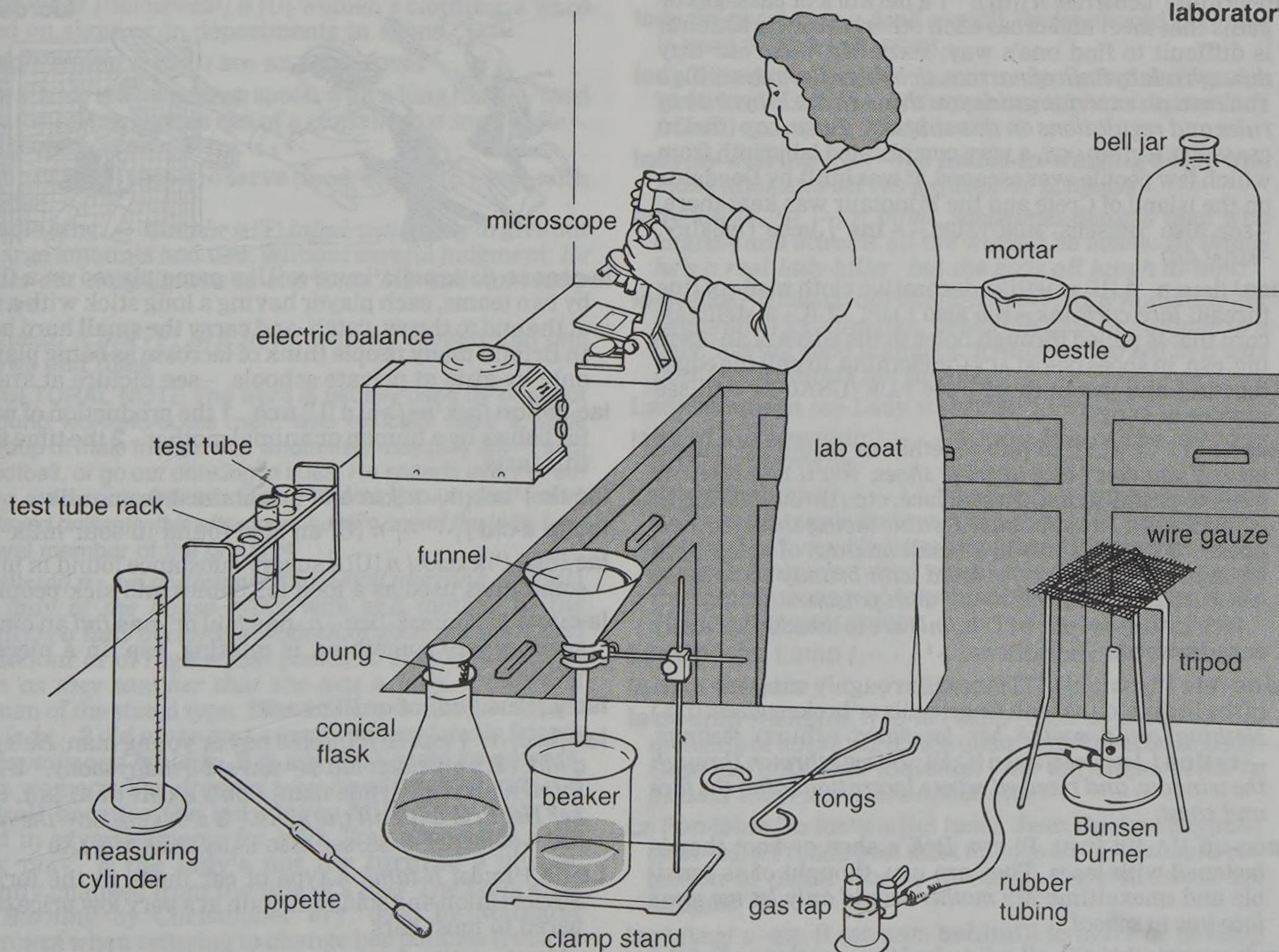
la-bour¹ *BrE* || **labor** *AmE* /'leɪbər/ *n* 1 [U] effort or work, esp. tiring physical work: *Building roads still involves manual labour.* (= work with hand-held tools) | *The garage charged us for parts and labour.* —see WORK¹ (USAGE) 2 [U+sing./pl. v] workers, esp. those who use their hands, considered as a group or class: *It is up to organized labour to band together to fight the government's anti-union laws.* | *plans to cut the company's labour force* (=the number of workers) | *Labour relations* (=between the workers and employers) *have improved recently.* 3 [S;U] the act of giving birth: *She was in labour for several hours.* | *labour pains* 4 [C] *fml* (the doing of) a piece of work: *Sit down and rest after your labours!* —see also HARD LABOUR

labour² *BrE* || **labor** *AmE* *v* 1 [I] to work, esp. hard: *They laboured for years to build this monument.* | *I laboured over the report, trying to get it exactly right.* 2 [I+adv/prep] to move slowly and with difficulty: *She laboured up the hill with her heavy bags.* 3 [T] also **belabour**—to describe or deal with (something) in too great detail or by repeating too much: *There's no need to labour the point; we're all well aware what you mean.* 4 [I] (of an engine) to be working with difficulty at too low a speed

labour under sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to have or be influenced by (a mistaken idea): *If you think you're going to be promoted soon I'm afraid you're labouring under a delusion.*

Labour¹ /'leɪbər/ *n* [U+sing./pl. v] the British LABOUR PARTY

laboratory



Labour² *adj* supporting or having a connection with the Labour Party: *Do you think Labour will win?* | *We're all Labour in our family.* —see also LABOUR PARTY

la-boured *BrE* || **labored** *AmE* /'leɪbəd||-bəd/ *adj* showing signs of effort and difficulty: *You could tell from the laboured way he read out his speech that he didn't know much English.* | *laboured breathing*

la-bour-er *BrE* || **laborer** *AmE* /'leɪbərə/ *n* a worker whose job needs strength rather than skill, esp. one who works outdoors

labour ex-change /'.. .. / *n* *BrE* old-fash for JOB CENTRE

labour-in-ten-sive /'.. .. / *adj* (of an industry) needing a lot of workers compared to its other needs, such as money —compare CAPITAL-INTENSIVE

labour mar-ket /'.. .. / [*the*] the supply of workers in a particular country, area, etc., who are ready or suitable for work

labour of love /'.. .. / *n* **labours of love** a piece of work done for one's own pleasure, or to please someone else, and not for money or other gain

Labour Par-ty /'.. .. / [*the*] a political party trying to obtain social improvement, esp. for workers and less wealthy people —see SOCIALIST (USAGE)

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The British Labour Party, sometimes called the SOCIALISTS, is one of the two main political parties and has a close association with the TRADE UNIONS (2), although it is not now as left-wing as it used to be. It has not been in power since 1979 but still has many supporters esp. among WORKING-CLASS and MIDDLE-CLASS people. Americans, who are generally more CONSERVATIVE politically than Europeans, associate labour parties with powerful TRADE UNIONS, and take a somewhat negative view of them. ◀

la-bour-sav-ing /'leɪbə,seɪvɪŋ||-bər-/ *adj* that reduces or takes away the need to do work, esp. with one's hands: *laboursaving electrical appliances such as food mixers* | *a laboursaving device*

Lab-ra-dor /'læbrədɔː/ also **Labrador re-triev-er** /'.. .. / *n* a large dog with usu. black or yellow hair —see picture at DOG

la-bur-num /lə'bʊːnəm||-zɪr-/ *n* [C;U] a small decorative tree with long hanging stems of yellow flowers and poisonous seeds

lab-y-rinth /'læbərɪnθ/ *n* [(of)] **1** a network of passages or paths that meet and cross each other, through which it is difficult to find one's way; MAZE: *We made our way through a labyrinth of narrow, twisting alleyways.* | (fig.) *You need an expert to guide you through the labyrinth of rules and regulations on this subject.* **2** usu. cap [*the*] in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a very complicated labyrinth from which few people ever escaped. It was built by Daedalus on the island of Crete and the Minotaur was kept there. —see also THESEUS, MINOTAUR — ~ **ine** /'læbə'rɪnθaɪn◀, -θɪn◀/ *adj*

lace¹ /leɪs/ *n* **1** [U] a netlike decorative cloth made of fine thread: *lace curtains* —see also LACY **2** [C] a string or cord that is pulled through holes in the edges of an opening, esp. in shoes (SHOELACE) or clothing, to pull the edges together and fasten them —see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at SHOE

lace² *v* [T] **1** [(UP)] to pull together or fasten by tying a lace: *If you don't lace up your shoes, you'll trip over.* **2** [(UP)] to pass a string, thread, lace, etc., through holes in (something): *I always have trouble lacing these football boots.* **3** [(WITH)] to add a small amount of something strong to (a drink): *coffee laced with brandy* | *She laced her husband's bedtime drink with poison.*

lace into sbdy. *phr v* [T] *infml* rare to attack physically or with words

la-ce-rate /'læsəreɪt/ *v* [T] to tear or roughly cut (skin, part of the body, etc.) as with fingernails or broken glass: (fig.) *Nothing could soothe her lacerated (=hurt) feelings.* — **-ration** /'læsə'reɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]: *He was thrown through the window, and received severe lacerations of/to the face and chest.*

lace-up /'.. .. / *n* [usu. P] esp. *BrE* a shoe or boot that is fastened with laces. They are usu. thought of as sensible and unexciting: *My mother would only let me wear lace-ups to school.*

lach-ry-mal /'lækrɪməl/ *adj* *tech* of tears or the part of the

body (**lachrymal gland**) that produces them

lach-ry-mose /'lækrɪməʊs/ *adj fml* **1** often crying; TEARFUL **2** often *derog* tending to cause tears; sad: *lachrymose poetry*

lack¹ /læk/ *v* [T] **1** to be without; not have, or not have enough of (esp. something needed or wanted): *The female bird lacks the male's bright coloration.* | *He's good at his job but he seems to lack confidence.* | *What the company lacks is sufficient money to invest in new products.* —see also LACKING **2** **lack for nothing** to have everything one needs

► **USAGE** Compare **lack** and **be short of**. Both can mean “not to have enough of something” but **lack** (or commonly **be lacking in**) is used especially with abstract nouns: *The teacher said that the child lacked/was lacking in confidence.* **Be short of** is more common than **lack** when talking about objects and materials: *We're short of sugar/apples.* (**Lack** would be very formal in sentences like these.) ◀

lack² *n* [S;U (of)] the state of not having (enough of) something: *The plants died through/lack of water.* | *There's a certain lack of enthusiasm for these changes among the membership.*

lack-a-dai-si-cal /'lækə'deɪzɪkəl◀/ *adj* *derog* not showing (enough) interest or effort; lazy: *She has a rather lackadaisical approach to her work.* — ~ **ly** /kli/ *adv*

lack-ey /'læki/ *n* *derog* a person who behaves like a servant by always obeying

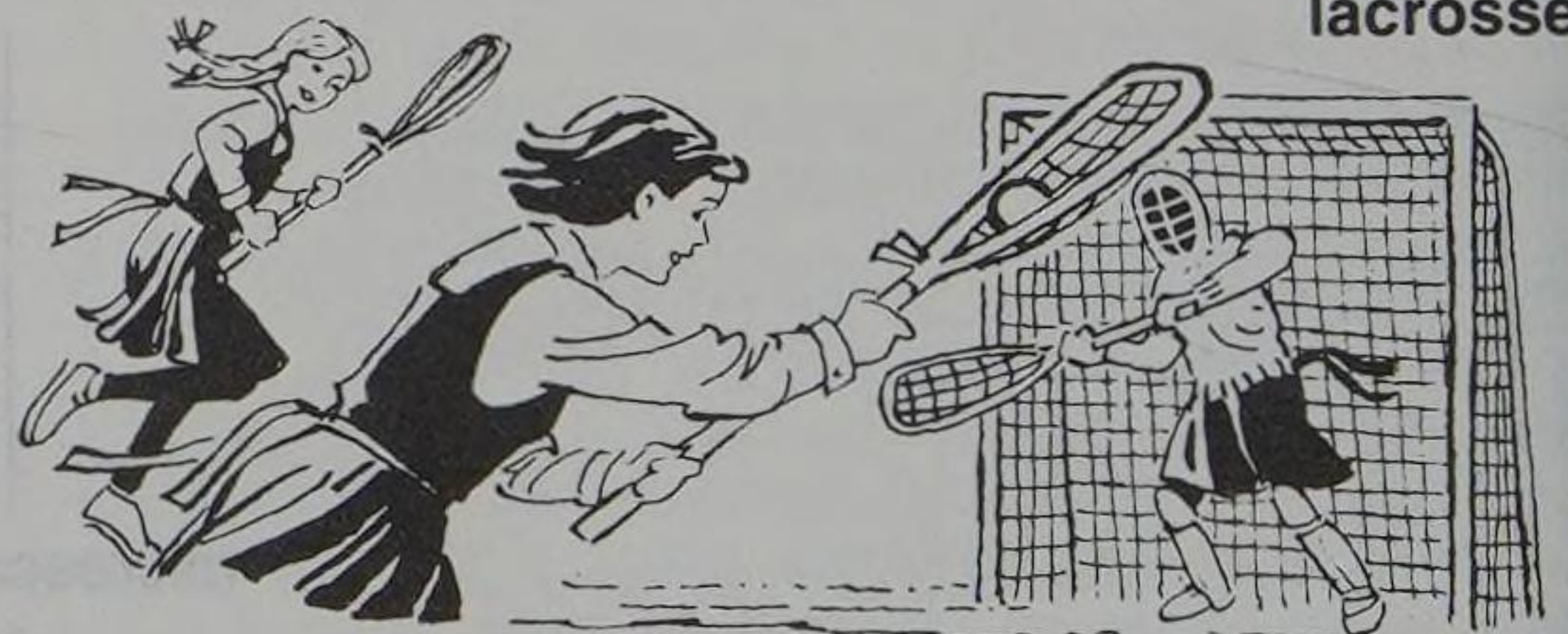
lack-ing /'lækɪŋ/ *adj* [F] **1** not present; missing: *We can't confirm these rumours because accurate information is lacking.* | *I was happy as a child, but there was something lacking (in my life).* **2** [+ in] without the usual or needed amount of (a quality, skill, etc.): *I'm afraid he's somewhat lacking in intelligence/tact/initiative.*

lack-lus-tre *BrE* || **-ter** *AmE* /'læk,ləstə/ *adj* *derog* unexciting; dull: *a lacklustre speech/performance*

la-con-ic /lə'kɒnɪk||-'kɑː-/ *adj fml* using few words: *a laconic way of speaking* — ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*: “Wait and see!” *he replied laconically.*

lac-quer¹ /'lækə/ *n* [U] a transparent or coloured substance used for forming a hard shiny surface on metal or wood, or for making hair stay in place

lacquer² *v* [T] to cover with lacquer



lacrosse

la-crosse /lə'krɒs||lə'krɔːs/ *n* [U] a game played on a field by two teams, each player having a long stick with a net at the end to throw, catch, and carry the small hard ball. In Britain many people think of lacrosse as being played only by girls at private schools. —see picture at STICK

lac-ta-tion /læk'teɪʃən/ *n* [U] *tech* **1** the production of milk for babies by a human or animal mother **2** the time that this lasts

lac-tic /'læktɪk/ *adj* *tech* of or obtained from milk

lactic a-cid /'.. .. / *n* [U] an acid found in sour milk

lac-tose /'læktəʊs/ *n* [U] a sugary substance found in milk, sometimes used as a food for babies and sick people

la-cu-na /lə'kjuːnə||-'kuz-/ *n* **-nae** /niː/ or **-nas** *fml* an empty space where something is missing, esp. in a piece of writing

lac-y /'leɪsi/ *adj* of or like LACE¹

lad /læd/ *n* **1** esp. *BrE* *infml* a boy or young man: *He's just a lad.* | *It's my eldest lad's (=son's) birthday today.* **2** *BrE* *infml* a playfully rude man: *Ron's a (bit of a) lad, isn't he? He flirts with all the girls.* **3** a STABLE BOY: *the head lad* —compare LASS; see also LADS, JACK THE LAD

La-da /'lɑːdə/ *n* *tdmk* a type of car made in the former Soviet Union and sold in Britain at a very low price compared to most cars

Lad-brokes /'lædbroks/ one of Britain's largest betting

(BET¹) companies, which has shops in many towns and cities

lad-der¹ /'lædə/ *n* **1** a structure consisting of two bars or ropes joined to each other by steps (RUNGS), and used for climbing, e.g. up the side of a building or ship: *He was standing on a ladder picking apples.* | (fig.) *She's working hard to try to get up the promotion ladder.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** There is an old SUPERSTITION which says that it is unlucky to walk under a ladder. ◀

2 *BrE* || *run AmE*— a long thin upright fault in STOCKINGS, etc., caused by stitches coming undone **3** (in sports such as SQUASH and TABLE TENNIS) a list of players who play each other regularly in order to decide who is best. A winner goes up the list; a loser goes down.

ladder² *v* [I;T] *BrE* to develop or cause (TIGHTS, etc.) to develop a ladder: *My tights laddered/I laddered my tights on a nail.*

lad-die , -dy /'lædi/ *n infml*, esp. *ScotE* a boy; lad

la-den /'leɪdn/ *adj* [(with)] (heavily) loaded: *the heavily laden ship* | *The lorry was fully laden.* | *The bushes were laden with fruit.* | (fig., lit) *He was laden (=deeply troubled) with sorrow.*

la-di-da , **lah-di-dah** /,lɑ: di 'dɑ:/ *adj infml derog* pretending to be in a higher social position than one actually is in, by using unnaturally delicate manners, ways of speaking, etc.: *She/her voice/her manner is a bit too la-di-da for my liking.*

la-dies /'leɪdiz/ *BrE* || **ladies room** /'.. -/ *AmE*— *n* ladies a women's TOILET—compare GENTS; see TOILET (USAGE)

Ladies' Day /'.. -/ **1** the second day of RACING at Ascot, when ladies wear unusual hats and fashionable clothes—see also ASCOT **2** *AmE* a day when women may attend an event at a reduced cost: *It's Ladies' Day at the ball-park today so women can get in for half price.*

Ladies' Home Journal /,.. -/ an UPPER-CLASS and rather old-fashioned British magazine for women

ladies' man /'.. -/ *n* a man who likes to spend his time with women, and is (sexually) attractive to them

Ladies' night /'.. -/ **1** (in the UK) a special evening when women are allowed into a men's club as guests of a member **2** *AmE* a night when women may attend an event at a reduced cost: *On Tuesday they're having a Ladies' night with half-price drinks.*

la-dies-wear /'leɪdizweə/ *n* [U] women's clothing; a word used on signs or in departments in shops

la-ding /'leɪdɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] see BILL OF LADING

la-dle¹ /'leɪdl/ *n* a large deep spoon with a long handle, used esp. for lifting liquids out of a container: *a soup ladle*—see picture at SPOON

ladle² *v* [T (OUT, INTO)] to serve (food, soup, etc.), esp. with a ladle

ladle sthg. ↔ **out phr** *v* [T] *infml*, *usu. derog* to give out in large amounts and usu. without careful judgment: *He ladles out compliments to everyone, but he's not really sincere.*

lads /lædz/ *n* [the+P] *BrE infml* a group of men that one knows and likes

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The word is usually used by or about young WORKING-CLASS men, who typically have a large group of male friends with whom they may play sport, esp. football, or go out drinking in PUBS: *He spends every evening at the pub with the lads.* | *The lads (= my/our team) played brilliantly this afternoon.* | *Jeff's one of the lads. (= a loyal member of the group)* ◀

la-dy /'leɪdi/ *n* **1** a polite a woman: *Good morning, ladies!* | *the lady of the house* (=the wife and mother in the family) | *a lady doctor* **b** a woman of good manners and behaviour or of high social position: *They could tell as soon as they saw her that she was a lady.* **c** *apprec* a woman of the stated type: *The new boss is a very business-like lady.* **2** *old use or poet* a man's wife or female friend: *the captain and his lady* **3** *sl*, esp. *AmE* (used for addressing a woman): *You dropped your handkerchief, lady!* **4** and all because the lady loves Milk Tray a phrase used in advertisements for Milk Tray chocolates—see MILK TRAY **5** the lady's not for turning a phrase, slightly changed from the title of a play *The Lady's not for Burning* by Christopher Fry, used by Margaret THATCHER when refusing to change her policies (POLICY) and afterwards often used about her; see also BAG LADY,

FIRST LADY, LEADING LADY, OLD LADY; see GENTLEMAN (USAGE)

Lady *n* **a** a woman of noble rank: *Good morning, my lady.* **b** the wife or daughter of a nobleman or the wife of a KNIGHT: *Sir Harold and Lady Wilson* **c** a woman with a high position: *Lady President*—see also LADYSHIP, OUR LADY

Lady, The a small, rather old-fashioned British magazine in which UPPER-CLASS women often advertise for servants

Lady and the Tramp /,.. -/ a CARTOON film made in 1955 by Walt Disney, about two dogs that fall in love with each other. One of the dogs (the **Lady**) is of a special breed and very well cared for, while the other (the **Tramp**) is a mixture of breeds and has to take care of himself.

la-dy-bird /'leɪdɪbɜ:d/ || -bɜ:rd/ *BrE* || **la-dy-bug** /'leɪdɪbʌg/ *AmE*— *n* a small round BEETLE (type of insect) that is usu. red with black spots

Ladybird **1** *tdmk* a make of children's clothing **2** the name of a set of books with hard covers for children, now produced by Ladybird Books Ltd in England: *the Ladybird reading scheme*

Lady Boun-ti-ful /,.. -/ *derog* a rich woman who makes a show of giving to the poor: *She likes to think she's Lady Bountiful.*

Lady Chapel /'.. -/ a CHAPEL in a Christian, esp. a ROMAN CATHOLIC, church where people go to pray to Mary, the mother of Christ. It usu. contains a picture or STATUE of her.

Lady Chat-ter-ley /,leɪdi 'tʃætəli/-tər-/ a character in *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, a book by D H Lawrence which was banned (BAN¹) for years after it was written in 1928 because of its use of TABOO language and the fact that Lady Chatterley, an UPPER-CLASS woman, had a sexual affair with her GAMEKEEPER. It was finally published (PUBLISH) in Britain in 1960, after a court ruled that it was not OBSCENE.

Lady Day /'.. -/ 25 March, the day on which, according to the Bible, the news was given to the Virgin Mary by the Angel Gabriel that she would become the mother of the son of God. Until 1752 it was the official beginning of the year in law.

Lady Di /,.. -/ a name by which the Princess of Wales was informally known before she was married. Her full name was Lady Diana Spencer.

lady fin-ger /'.. -/ *n* *AmE* a small, finger-shaped cake that is used to make DESSERTS

lady friend /'.. -/ *n* *usu. humor.* a man's female friend; a girlfriend: *I saw you in the pub last night with your lady friend.*—compare YOUNG LADY

lady-in-wait-ing /,.. -/ *n* ladies-in-waiting a lady who looks after and serves a queen or princess

lady-kill-er /'.. -/ *n infml*, sometimes *derog* a man who charms and attracts all the women he meets: *He thinks he's a real lady-killer, but the girls all laugh at him.*

la-dy-like /'leɪdɪlaɪk/ *adj* *old-fash apprec* (of a woman or her behaviour) looking like, behaving like, or suitable to a lady; having good manners: *scratching herself in a way that was certainly not ladylike*

Lady Macbeth see Lady MACBETH

lady of the eve-ning /,.. -/ *n* ladies of the evening *euph* a PROSTITUTE¹

Lady of the Lake /,.. -/ **The** a rather unreal, shadowy figure with magic powers who appears in stories about King Arthur, most famously as a hand rising from a lake to catch Arthur's sword when he is dying and as one of the three queens who take him by boat to Avalon to die—see ARTHURIAN LEGEND

Lady of the Lamp /,.. -/ see Florence NIGHTINGALE

la-dy's fin-gers /'.. -/ *n* [P] OKRA

la-dy-ship /'leɪdɪʃɪp/ *n* (often *cap.*) (used as a title for addressing or speaking of) a woman with the title of Lady: *Good morning, your ladyship.* | *Her ladyship will not be pleased when she hears about this.*

La Fon-taine /læ fɒn'teɪn/ || lɑ: fɑ:n-/ , **Jean De** /'ʒɒn də||ʒɑ:n-/ (1621–95) a French poet most famous for his *Fables*, a collection of moral stories in which the characters are animals

lag¹ /læɡ/ *v* -gg- [I (BEHIND, behind)] to move or develop more slowly (than others); considered to be a fault: *He*

lagged behind the rest of the children because he kept stopping to look in shop windows. | Why is this country lagging behind in the development of space technology?

lag² *n* a TIME LAG

lag³ *v* -gg- [T (with)] *BrE* to cover (water pipes and containers) with a special material to prevent loss of heat: *We've lagged the hotwater tank with felt.*

lag⁴ *n* see OLD LAG

la-ger /'lɑːgə/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* (a glass of) a light kind of beer; lager is popular with younger people

lager lout /'.., / *n* *BrE* a young man who drinks too much lager (or other alcohol) and then misbehaves by making anything from unpleasant remarks to violent attacks on people and property, usu. in the company of others

lag-gard /'lægəd||-ərd/ *n* *old use* a person or thing that is very slow or late

lag-ging /'lægiŋ/ *n* [U] *BrE* material used to LAG³ a water pipe or container

la-goön /lə'gu:n/ *n* a lake of sea water partly or completely separated from the sea by banks of sand, rock, CORAL, etc.: *a tropical lagoön*

La-gos /'leɪɡɒs||-gɑːs/ the largest city and former capital of Nigeria

La Guar-di-a /lə'gwɑːdiə||-ɑːr-/ one of New York's main airports, used mostly for flights within the US

lah-di-dah /,lɑː di 'dɑː/ *adj* LA-DI-DA

laid /leɪd/ *past tense and participle of* LAY¹

laid-back /,lɪ 'bæk/ *adj infml* (of a person or behaviour) cheerfully informal and/or unworried; RELAXED

lain /leɪn/ *past participle of* LIE¹

lair /leə/ *n* the place where a wild animal hides, rests, and sleeps: (fig.) *The police tracked the thieves to their lair.*

laird /leəd||leərd/ *n* a Scottish landowner —compare SQUIRE (1)

lais-sez-faire, laisser-faire /,leseɪ 'feə, /,leɪ-/ *n, adj* [U] *Fr* (the principle of) allowing people's activities, esp. business activities, to develop without control: *a laissez-faire attitude/policy*

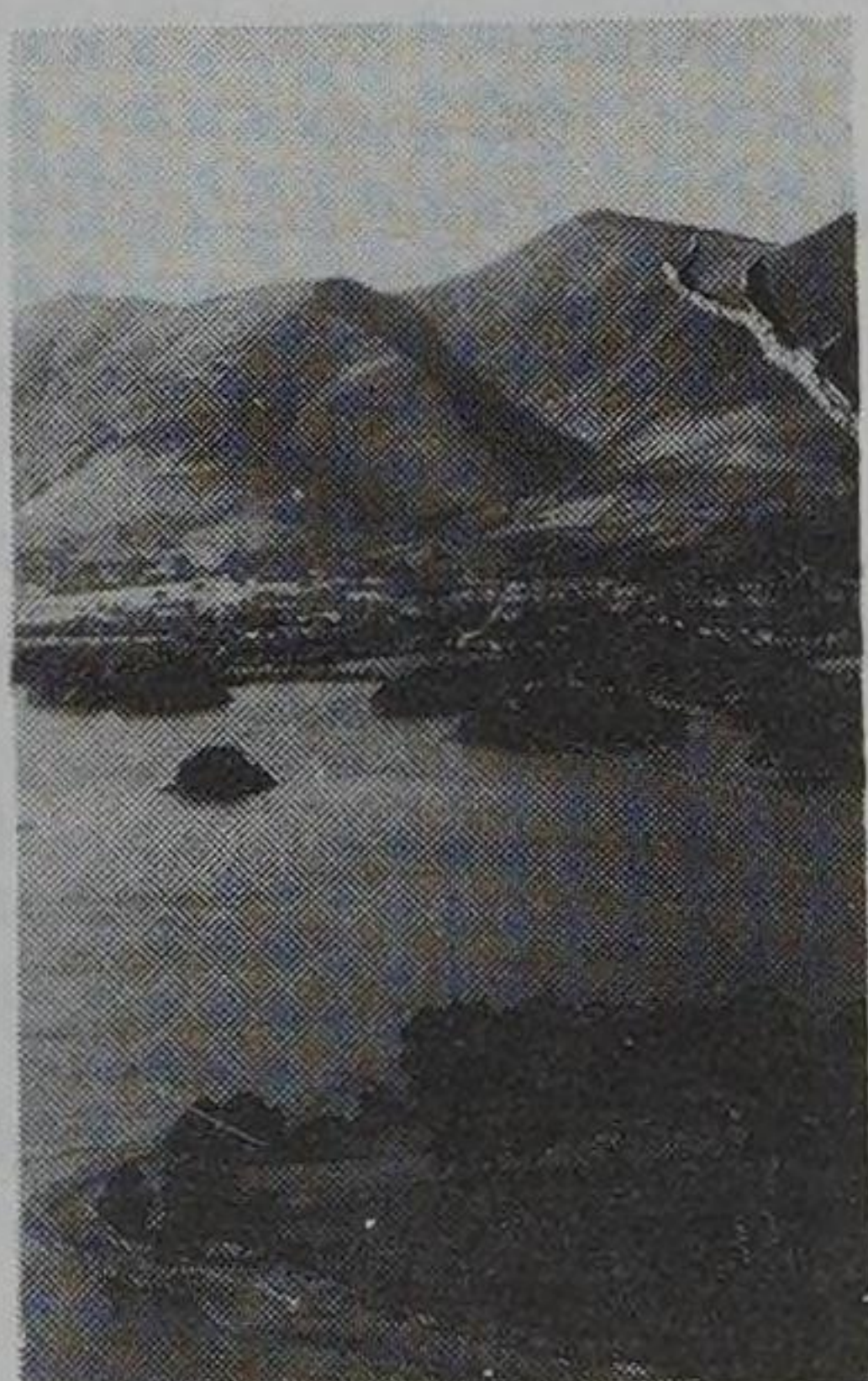
la-i-ty /'leɪtɪ/ *n* [the+P] members of a religious group without the special training of priests; laymen (LAYMAN (2))

lake¹ /leɪk/ *n* 1 a large area of water, esp. non-salty water, surrounded by land: *sailing on the lake | Lake Michigan* —compare POND 2 a very large amount of the stated usu. liquid product that is additional to what is needed or used: *European economic policies have created a wine lake.* —compare MOUNTAIN (3)

lake² *n* [U] a deep bluish-red colour, esp. of paint

Lake Dis-trict /'.., / [the] an area in NW England where there are a number of lakes in beautiful mountain scenery which attract many tourists. It includes England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike.

Lake District



Lake Okeechobee see OKEECHOBEE

Lake Wo-be-gon /leɪk 'wəʊ-bɪɡɒn||-gɔːn/ *n* a town in the stories of Garrison Keillor which is supposed to be typical of a small town in Minnesota

lakh /læk/ *determiner, n* *IndE & PakE* a hundred thousand

La-la Land /'.., / see LOS ANGELES

LA Law /,el eɪ 'lɔː/ an American television SERIES set in a law firm

La-lique /læ'liːk/, **Re-né** /'reneɪ || rə'neɪ/ (1860–1945) a French designer of jewellery remembered esp. for his Art Nouveau style

lam¹ /læm/ -mm- *v*

lam into sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *BrE sl* to beat or attack physically or with words

lam² *n* *AmE infml* on the lam escaping, esp. from the

police: *he broke out of jail and now he's on the lam.*

la-ma /'lɑːmə/ *n* a Buddhist priest of Tibet, Mongolia, etc. —see also DALAI LAMA

La-ma-is-m /'lɑːmə-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] a type of Buddhism practised in Tibet, Mongolia, etc.

La Manche /læ 'mɒnʃ||lɑː 'mɑːnʃ/ the French name for the English Channel

la-ma-se-ry /'lɑːməsəri||-seri/ *n* a building or group of buildings where lamas live

La-maze meth-od /lə'maɪz ,meθəd/ *n* [the] a method developed by a French doctor, **Fernand Lamaze**, for women to learn before giving birth to control their muscles and their breathing while giving birth: *Lamaze classes*

lamb¹ /læm/ *n* 1 [C] a young sheep —see also BAA 2 [U] the meat of a young sheep —see MEAT (USAGE) 3 [C] *infml* a harmless gentle person 4 *as/like a lamb to the slaughter* said of blameless people who are about to experience something bad which they don't deserve or know about: *He walked into the press conference as a lamb to the slaughter.*

lamb² *v* [I] to give birth to lambs: *The sheep are lambing this week.*

Lamb, Charles (1775–1834) an English writer of ESSAYS and criticism, who worked with his sister **Mary Lamb** (1764–1847) on *Tales from Shakespeare*, a book telling the stories of Shakespeare's plays

lam-ba-da /læm'bɑːdə/ [the] (a piece of music for) a sexually suggestive dance originally from Brazil, which became fashionable in Britain in the early 1990s —**lambada** *v* [I]

lam-baste /'læmbeɪst/ also **lam-bast** /-bəst/— *v* [T] *infml* to beat or attack fiercely, either physically or with words: *Her new play was really lambasted by the critics.*

lam-bent /'læmbənt/ *adj* *lit* 1 (of a flame) having a soft light and moving over a surface without burning it 2 (of light) softly shining 3 gently or playfully clever: *lambent wit*

Lam-beth /'læmbəθ/ an inner London BOROUGH on the S side of the river Thames, a mainly WORKING-CLASS area

Lambeth Con-fe-rence /,læmbəθ 'kɒnfərəns/ [the] any of the formal meetings of the world's Church of England BISHOPS (1) held every ten years; the first one was held at Lambeth Palace in 1867

Lambeth Pal-ace /,læmbəθ 'pæləs/ 1 the official home in London of the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, the head of the CHURCH OF ENGLAND 2 (+ *sing./pl.v*) the CHURCH OF ENGLAND speaking officially: *Lambeth Palace has condemned Government policies on the inner city.*

Lambeth walk /,læmbəθ 'wɔːk/ [the] a dance which was popular in the past, in which dancers form a long line, usu. in the street. It was danced to a popular song with the same name.

Lamb of God /,læm 'ɒf ɡɒd/ [the] another name for Jesus

lamb-skin /'læm,skɪn/ *n* [C;U] (leather made from) the skin of a lamb, esp. with the wool on it

lame¹ /leɪm/ *adj* 1 not able to walk properly because one's leg or foot is hurt or has some sort of weakness: *The horse went lame.* 2 *infml* not easily believed; weak: *a lame excuse* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

lame² *v* [T] to cause to become lame

la-mé /'lɑːmeɪ||lɑː'meɪ/ *n* [U] cloth containing gold or silver threads: *a gold lamé skirt*

lame-brain /'leɪmbreɪn/ *n* *AmE sl* a stupid person: *Don't do it that way, lamebrain! you'll break it.*

lame duck /,læm 'dʌk/ *n* 1 a person or business that is helpless or ineffective 2 *AmE* a political official whose period in office will soon end: *a lame duck president/presidency*

la-ment¹ /lə'ment/ *v* [I (over);T] 1 to feel or express deep sorrow (for or because of): *The nation lamented the passing (=death) of its great war leader. | (fml or pomp) The decline in good manners is to be lamented.* 2 *the late lamented fml or humor* the recently dead (person)

lament² *n* [(for)] a strong expression of deep sorrow, esp. in the form of a song or piece of music; a common form of bagpipe music (BAGPIPES)

lam-en-ta-ble /'læməntəbəl, lə'mentəbəl/ *adj fml* very unsatisfactory: *This government's performance/attitude is absolutely lamentable.* —**bly adv**

lam-en-ta-tion /ˌlæmən'teɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] *fml or bibl* (an expression of) deep sorrow: *There was lamentation throughout the land at the news of the defeat.*

lam-i-nar flow /ˌlæmɪnə 'fləʊ-|nər-/ *n* [U] a smooth flow of a gas or liquid over a solid surface, such as an aircraft's wing

lam-i-nate¹ /ˌlæmɪneɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to make (a strong material) by joining many thin sheets of the material on top of each other: *laminated steel* **2** to cover with thin metal or plastic sheets: *The work surface is made of wood laminated with plastic.*

lam-i-nate² /ˌlæmɪnɪt, -neɪt/ *n* [C;U] material made by laminating sheets of plastic, metal, etc.

La-mont /lə'mɒnt||-'mɑːnt/, **Norman** (1942–) a British Conservative politician, Chancellor of the Exchequer in John Major's government

lamp /læmp/ *n* **1** an apparatus, esp. a movable one, for giving light, using oil, gas, or electricity: *to light an oil lamp* | *A miner's lamp is fixed onto his helmet.* | *a table lamp* | *a streetlamp* —see pictures at BICYCLE and at LIGHT

2 an electrical apparatus used for producing health-giving forms of heat: *an infrared lamp* —see also BLOWLAMP, HURRICANE LAMP, SAFETY LAMP, SUNLAMP **3** new lamps for old see ALADDIN

lamp-black /'læmp-|-/ *n* [U] a fine black colouring material made from the SOOT (=black powder) produced by the smoke of a burning oil or gas lamp

lam-poon¹ /læm'puːn/ *n* a piece of writing fiercely attacking a person, government, etc., by making them seem foolish

lampoon² *v* [T] to attack in a lampoon: *In his essays he lampooned all the major political figures of the time.*

lamp-post /'læmp-pəʊst/ *n* a tall thin support for a lamp which lights a street or other public area —see picture at HOUSE

lam-prey /'læmpri/ *n* a snakelike fish with a sucking mouth

lamp-shade /'læmpʃeɪd/ *n* a usu. decorative cover placed over a lamp, esp. to reduce or direct its light

LAN /læn/ *n* local area network; a system connecting computer TERMINALS in a building

Lan-ark-shire /'lænəkʃə||-'nər-/ a former COUNTY in central Scotland, now part of Strathclyde REGION

Lan-ca-shire /'læŋkəʃə/ *written abbrev Lancs.* a COUNTY in NW England, known esp. in the past for its TEXTILE and coal industries

Lan-cas-ter /læŋkəstə||-'kæs-/ , **Burt** /bɜːt||bɜːrt/ (1913–) an American actor who made many important films between the 1940s and 1980s. He won an Oscar in 1960 for *Elmer Gantry*.

lance¹ /lɑːns||læns/ *n* a long spearlike weapon used by soldiers on horseback in former times

lance² *v* [T] to cut (flesh) open with a medical instrument, esp. to let infected material out: *That boil will have to be lanced.*

lance cor-po-ral /'læns||-kɔːrəl/ *n* a military rank —see TABLE 3

Lan-ce-lot /'lɑːnsələt||'lænsələt/, **Sir** the most famous of the KNIGHTS of King Arthur, lover of Arthur's wife Guinevere, and father of Sir Galahad —see also ARTHURIAN LEGEND

lanc-er /'lɑːnsə||'læn-/ *n* a soldier in a REGIMENT (=a military group) (formerly) armed with lances

lan-cet /'lɑːnsɪt||'læn-/ *n* a small very sharp pointed knife with two cutting edges, used by a doctor to cut flesh

Lancet, **The** a British magazine for medical workers, produced by the British Medical Association, which reports on recent discoveries in medicine, drugs, etc. Its technical language is generally suitable only for doctors and other medical professionals. —see also NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

Lan-ci-a /'lɑːnsiə/ *tdmk* (a company which makes) a sporty type of Italian car

Lancs. *written abbrev for:* LANCASHIRE

land¹ /lænd/ *n* **1** [U] the solid dry part of the Earth's surface: *After working at sea for several years, I got a job on land.* | *We finally sighted land/made land* (=reached the shore) *after a voyage of two weeks.* | *land-based nuclear weapons* —see also DRYLAND **2** [U] also **lands pl.** —(usu. in comb.) a part of the Earth's surface all of the same

(stated) natural type: *the heathlands of Northern Germany* —see also HIGHLAND, LOWLAND, WOODLAND **3** [C] esp. *lit* a country; nation: *People came from many lands to take part.* | *England is my native land.* (=I was born there) | (fig.) *the land of the dead* —see also CLOUD-CUCKOO-LAND, DREAMLAND; see also **land of milk and honey** (MILK¹ (3)) **4** [U] also **lands pl.** —ground owned as property: *You are on my land.* | *Land prices have risen quickly.* | *The duke's lands stretch for many miles in all directions.* **5** [U] ground used for farming: *This is excellent land for wheat.* | *He works (on) the land.* (=is a farmer) **6** [the] life in the country as opposed to life in towns and cities: *People who live in towns often dream of getting back to the land.* **7** see/find out how the 'land lies to try to discover the present state of affairs before taking action **8** **land of the living** humor a state of being awake, esp. after being asleep or ill: *Is John back in the land of the living yet?*

▷ **USAGE 1** The surface of the world, when compared with the sea, is called the **land**, but when compared with the sky or space it is called **earth** or the **Earth**: *After a week at sea, the sailors saw land.* | *After a week in space, the spacecraft returned to earth.* **2** An area considered as property is a piece of **land**: *the high price of land in London.* The substance in which plants grow is the **soil** or **earth**: *a tub filled with soil/earth*, or (when we think of it as having an area) **ground**: *a small piece of ground where I could plant a few potatoes.* But when we are talking about large areas used for farming, we say **land**: *There is good land here for growing corn.* The surface we walk on is called the **ground**, but when this is inside a building it is the **floor**: *The horse fell to the ground.* | *The plate fell to the floor.* ◁

land² *v* **1** [I;T] to come or bring down from the air onto a surface, esp. of the Earth or water: *The plane landed only five minutes late.* | *We landed at Dubai for refuelling.* | *A drop of rain landed on my head.* | *The pilot landed the plane very skilfully in difficult conditions.* **2** [T] to bring to or put on land from water or from the air: *The ship landed the goods at Dover.* | *The troops were landed by helicopter.* **3** [T] to catch (a fish): (fig.) *She landed* (=succeeded in getting) *the top job in the record company.* **4** [T+obj(i)+obj(d)] *infml* to hit: *I landed him a punch on the nose.* —see also **land on one's feet** (FOOT)

land sbdy. in sthg. phr v [T] (of an event or course of action) to bring (someone) into (an undesirable state or position): *That sort of behaviour could land you in prison.* | *Her sudden resignation landed us in a real mess.*

land up phr v [I+adv/prep] to reach the stated (often undesirable) state or position at the end of a course of action or events: *After years of bad management the company landed up in serious debt.* [+v-ing] *We landed up wandering around with nowhere to stay.* —see also END UP

land sbdy. with sthg. phr v [T] *infml* to give (someone) (something unwanted): *I've been landed with the job of organizing the Christmas party.*

Land, Ed-win Her-bert /'edwɪn 'hɜːbət||-'hɜːrbɔːt/ (1909–91) the American inventor of Polaroid glass, film and cameras (sometimes known as Polaroid Land cameras)

land a-gent /'lænda-||-dʒənt/ *n* esp. *BrE* someone who looks after the land, cattle, farms, etc., belonging to someone else

lan-dau /'lændəʊ||-daʊ/ *n* a four-wheeled horsedrawn carriage with two seats and a top that folds back in two parts, used esp. in former times

land-ed /'lændɪd/ *adj* [A] **1** owning large amounts of land: *the landed gentry* **2** *tech* made up of land: *landed property*

Lan-ders /'lændəz||-ərz/, **Ann** /æn/ (1918–) a well-known American AGONY AUNT whose writings appear daily in hundreds of American newspapers

land-fall /'lændfɔːl/ *n* the first sight of land or arrival on land after a journey by sea or air; used esp. when the journey has taken a long time or is over a long distance: *We made landfall on the 84th day.*

land-fill /'lændfɪl/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an example of) the act of burying waste under the soil **2** [U] waste buried in this way: *a landfill site* (=place where this waste is buried)

land-girl /'lændgɜːl||-gɜːl/ *n* a member of the Women's Land Army in Britain during the Second World War. Landgirls worked on farms to replace men who were away fighting in the war.

land-ing /'lændɪŋ/ *n* **1** the level space at the top of a set of stairs or between two sets of stairs **2** an act of arriving or bringing something to land: *an emergency landing/crash landing*

landing craft /'lændɪŋ kɹɑ:ft/ *n* a flat-bottomed boat that opens at one end, used for landing soldiers and army vehicles directly on the shore

landing field /'lændɪŋ fi:ld/ *n* a LANDING STRIP

landing gear /'lændɪŋ ɡɛə/ *n* [U] an aircraft's wheels and wheel supports —see picture at AIRCRAFT

landing net /'lændɪŋ net/ *n* a net on a long handle used for lifting a caught fish out of the water

landing stage /'lændɪŋ steɪdʒ/ *n* a level surface, floating in or supported over the water, onto which passengers and goods are landed

landing strip /'lændɪŋ stri:p/ also **landing field** — *n* a stretch of prepared ground for aircraft to take off from and land on; a landing strip is used in country areas where there is no proper airport, and is sometimes just a flat field.

land-lady /'lænd,leɪdi/ *n* **1** a woman who owns and runs a BOARDING HOUSE (=a small hotel): *Seaside landladies are often thought of as fearsome or eccentric.* **2** a woman from whom someone rents a room, a building, land, etc.: *My landlady keeps complaining about the noise.* —compare LANDLORD

land-locked /'lændlɒkt||-lɔ:kt/ *adj* enclosed or almost enclosed by land: *Switzerland is a landlocked country, with no port for sea trade.*

land-lord /'lændlɔ:d||-lɔ:rd/ *n* **1** a man from whom someone rents a room, a building, land, etc. **2** a man who owns or is in charge of a hotel, PUB, etc.: *There's a new landlord at the King's Head.* —compare LANDLADY

land-lub-ber /'lænd,lʌbə/ *n* *informal*, often *derog* a person who is not used to the sea and ships; used mainly by people who are used to the sea and ships — *~ly adj*

land-mark /'lændmɑ:k||-mɑ:rk/ *n* **1** an easily recognizable object, such as a tall tree or building, by which one can tell one's position **2** an important point in a person's life, in the development of knowledge, etc.: *The discovery of penicillin was a landmark in the history of medicine.*

land-mass /'lændmæs/ *n* *fml* or *tech* a large area of land: *the European landmass*

land-mine /'lændmaɪn/ *n* an explosive apparatus hidden in or on the ground, which blows up when a person or vehicle passes over it

Land of Hope and Glo-ry /,lɒd .əp .ənd .glɔ:ri/ the title and first words of a song, with music by Elgar, used on PATRIOTIC occasions to describe Britain. It is often now thought of as JINGOISTIC, but still sung esp. on the LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

Land of My Fa-thers /,lɒd .əmaɪ .fɑ:ðəz/ the English title of the NATIONAL ANTHEM (=national song) of Wales

Land of Nod /,lɒd .nɒd/ [*the*] in children's stories, the place where one goes when one sleeps: *The children are all safely in the Land of Nod.*

land-ow-ner /'lændəʊnə/ *n* a person who owns land: *a large landowner* — *~ship n* [U] —**landowning** *adj*, *n*: *the landowning classes*

land re-form /'lændrɪfɔ:m/ *n* [U] the sharing out of farm land, esp. by government, to make a fairer system

Land Re-gis-try /'lændrɪstri/ [*the*] the central record of who owns what land in Britain

Land Rov-er /'lændrɪvə/ *n* *tdmk* a type of strong car, made by the Rover Group in Britain, suitable for travelling over rough ground —compare JEEP

Lan-dry /'lændri/, **Tom** (1924–) an American FOOTBALL COACH (teacher)

land-scape¹ /'lændskeɪp/ *n* **1** [C] a wide view of country scenery: *the gently rolling landscape of Devon* —see picture at MOUNTAIN **2** [C] a picture of such a scene: *a Cézanne landscape* —compare SEASCAPE **3** [U] the art of representing scenery in paintings, etc. —see SCENERY (USAGE); see also **blot on the landscape** (BLOT¹) **4** LANDSCAPE MODE

landscape² *v* [T] to make (the land around new houses, factories, etc.) more like interesting natural scenery: *We're having the hotel grounds landscaped.*

landscape ar-chi-tect /'lændskeɪp ,ɑ:ktɪk/ *n* someone whose profession

is to arrange land, including roads, buildings, and planted areas, for human use —**landscape architecture** *n* [U]

landscape gar-den-ing /,lændskeɪp ,ɡɑ:dnɪŋ/ *n* [U] the art of arranging trees, paths, etc., in gardens and parks to give a pleasing effect —**landscape gardener** *n*

landscape mode /'lændskeɪp mo:ð/ also **landscape**— [U] *tech* in **land-scape mode** (of paper, or a picture on a page) with the longer edge from left to right (=HORIZONTAL) and the shorter edge from top to bottom (=VERTICAL): *I can't get my file to print out in landscape (mode).* —compare PORTRAIT MODE

Land's End /,lɒd .end/ **1** the point of the English coast that is furthest west, in the extreme SW of the country **2** **from Land's End to John O'Groats** from the extreme south to the extreme north of Britain. Most people think of Land's End as being the furthest southern point of MAINLAND Britain, although in fact the lizard is further south —compare JOHN O'GROATS

land-slide /'lændslɑɪd/ *n* **1** a sudden fall of earth or rocks down a hill, cliff, etc. **2** a very large, often unexpected, success in an election: *The Republicans won in a landslide/had a landslide victory.*

land-slip /'lændslɪp/ *n* a small LANDSLIDE (1)

land-ward /'lændwəd||-wərd/ *adj* towards the land, esp. from the sea —compare EARTHWARD

land-wards /'lændwədz||-wərdz/ *esp. BrE* || *usu.* **landward** *AmE*— *adv* towards the land, esp. from the sea —compare EARTHWARDS

lane /leɪn/ *n* **1** a narrow often winding road or way between fields, houses, etc.: *country lanes* | *picturesque lanes in the Old Town* | *Her house is in Ivy Lane.* **2** any of the parallel parts into which wide roads are divided to keep fast and slow cars apart: *The outside lane is the fast lane.* | *Get in lane for* (=the right part of the road to get to) *Los Angeles.* | *lane closures on the M1* **3** a path marked for each competitor in a running or swimming race: *The champion is running in lane five.* **4** a fixed path across the sea or through the air used regularly by ships or aircraft: *the busy shipping lanes of the English Channel* —see also **in the fast lane** (FAST¹)

lane clo-sure /'leɪn ,klɔ:sʊə/ *n* an act of closing a LANE (2) e.g. for a road to be repaired or built or to prevent accidents: *Watch out for lane closures on the M6.* | *lane closures due to fog*

Lang /læŋ/, **Fritz** /frɪts/ (1890–1976) an American film director, born in Austria, who went to the US in 1936. His films include *Fury* and *The Big Heat*.

Lang-try /'læŋtri/, **Lil-lie** /'lɪli/ (1853–1929) an English actress known as the **Jersey Lily** and considered to be very beautiful. She was the MISTRESS (2) of the future Edward VII.

lan-guage /'læŋgwɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [U] the system of human expression by means of words: *Experts disagree about the origins of language.* **2** [C] a particular system of words, as used by a people or nation: *"How many languages can you speak?" "Two: English and French."* | *English is my first/native language.* | *the English language* | *a language course* (=to learn a foreign language) **3** [C;U] a system of signs, movements, etc., used to express meanings or feelings: *The language this computer uses is BASIC.* | *Whales have a language of squeaks and clicks.* —see also BODY LANGUAGE, SIGN LANGUAGE **4** [U] a particular style or manner of expression: *poetic language* | (fig.) *I like him; he talks my (kind of) language.* (=has the same opinions as me and expresses them similarly) **5** [U] often *euph* rude or shocking words and phrases, esp. FOUR-LETTER WORDS: *The teacher threw him out for using bad language.* | *He expressed his disagreement in rather strong language.*

language la-bor-a-tory /'læŋgwɪdʒ ,ləbərətɔ:ri/ *n* a room in which people can learn foreign languages by means of special teaching machines, esp. TAPE RECORDERS

language school /'læŋgwɪdʒ ,sku:l/ *n* a school that teaches one or more languages to students from other countries

lan-guid /'læŋgwɪd/ *adj* without strength or any show of effort; slow, esp. in a graceful way: *She stretched out a languid arm to brush the cigar ash off the couch.* — *~ly adv*

lan-guish /'læŋgwɪʃ/ *v* [I] sometimes *lit* **1** [(in)] to experience long suffering: *She languished in prison for*

fifteen years. **2** to be or become weaker: *The plants are languishing because of lack of water.* **3** [(for)] to become weak or unhappy through desire

lan-guor /'læŋgə/ *n* esp. *lit* **1** [U] usu. pleasant tiredness of mind or body; lack of strength or will **2** [U] pleasant or heavy stillness: *the languor of a hot summer's afternoon* **3** [C often pl.] a feeling or state of mind of tender sadness and desire: *the languors of a lovesick poet* — **ous** *adj* — **ously** *adv*: *She lowered her eyelids languorously and stretched out in front of the fire.*

lank /læŋk/ *adj* *derog* (of hair) straight and lifeless — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

lank-y /'læŋki/ *adj* (esp. of a person) ungracefully tall and thin — **iness** *n* [U]

lan-o-lin /'lænəl-ɪn/ *n* [U] a fatty substance obtained from sheep's wool, used in skin creams

lan-tern /'læntən-ən/ *n* **1** a container, usu. of glass and metal, that encloses and protects the flame of a light; more often used outside than inside — see picture at LIGHT **2** *tech* the top of a building or tower, such as a LIGHTHOUSE, with windows on all sides — see also CHINESE LANTERN, MAGIC LANTERN

lantern-jawed /,læntən-ɪ-ɔː/ *adj* (of a person) having long narrow jaws and cheeks that sink inwards

lan-tern-slide /'læntənslaid-ər-/ *n* an early type of SLIDE² (4), made of glass, as used in a MAGIC LANTERN

lan-yard /'lænjəd-ɪ-ɔːd/ *n* **1** a short piece of rope, used on ships for tying things **2** a thick string on which a knife or whistle is hung round the neck, esp. by sailors

Laos /laʊs/ 'lɑːs/ a country in SE Asia, bordered by China, Vietnam, Kampuchea, Thailand, and Myanmar; capital Vientiane; population 3,972,000 (1989)

lap¹ /læp/ *n* **1** the front part of a seated person between the waist and the knees: *The child sat on its mother's lap.* **2** *in the lap of luxury* *infml* in very great comfort: *He wants to marry a millionairess and live in the lap of luxury.* **3** *in the lap of the gods* dependent on chance or fate; uncertain

lap² *v* -pp- **1** [T (UP)] (of animals) to drink by taking up with quick movements of the tongue: *The cat lapped the milk.* | (fig.) *She lapped up the compliments.* (=accepted them eagerly or without thought) **2** [I (against); T] (of water) to move or hit with little waves and soft sounds: *waves gently lapping (against) the shore*

lap³ *n* **1** [C] an act of lapping a liquid with the tongue **2** [the] the sound of lapping, e.g. of waves

lap⁴ *n* (in racing, swimming, etc.) a single journey round or along the track: *a three-lap race* | (fig.) *The last lap* (=the last stage) *of our journey is from Frankfurt to London.*

lap⁵ *v* -pp- **1** [I+adv/prep] (in racing) to race completely round the track: *Niki Lauda lapped in under two minutes.* **2** [T] (in racing, swimming, etc.) to pass (a competitor) having covered a complete lap more than them **3** [T+obj+adv/prep] esp. *lit* to fold over or round; wrap round; surround

lap-a-ros-cop-y /,læpə'rɒskəpi- 'rɑː-/ *n* [C;U] (an) examination of the inside of the body using an instrument (laparoscope) with a lighted tube that the doctor can look down

lap-dog /'læpdɒg- 'dɔːg/ *n* **1** often *derog* a small pet dog **2** *derog* a person completely under the control of another (usu. important) person

la-pel /lə'pel/ *n* the part of the front of a coat or JACKET that is joined to the collar and folded back on each side towards the shoulders: *narrow lapels* — compare REVERS

lap-i-da-ry¹ /'læpɪdəri- 'deri/ *adj* [A] **1** *tech* (of words) cut in stone: *lapidary inscriptions* **2** *BrE pomp apprec* (of something said or written) very clever, amusing, etc., and deserving to be remembered

lapidary² *n* a person skilled in cutting precious stones, making them shine, etc.

lap-is laz-u-li /,læpɪs 'læzjʊli- 'læzəli/ *n* [C;U] (the colour of) a bright blue SEMIPRECIOUS stone

Lap-land /'læplænd/ a cold area of N Europe consisting of parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the former USSR. It is thought of by British children as the home of Father Christmas. — **er** *n*

lap of honour /,læp- 'ɒn-/ *n* laps of honour a LAP⁴ of a track,

completed after a race by the winner while people cheer

Lapp /læp/ *n, adj* (a native) of Lapland

lapse¹ /læps/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a small fault or mistake, esp. one that is quickly put right: *a memory lapse/lapse of memory* **2** [C] a failure in correct behaviour, belief, duty, etc.: *I started to eat the peas with my knife, but I don't think anyone noticed my little lapse.* **3** [S (of)] a passing away, esp. of time: *After a lapse of several years he came back to see us.*

lapse² *v* [I] **1** to pass gradually into a less active or less desirable state: *Standards have lapsed recently.* | *No one could think of anything more to say, and the meeting lapsed into silence.* | *After a year of fame the singer lapsed back into obscurity.* **2** (of a business agreement, official title, legal right, etc.) to come to an end, esp. because of lack of use, death, or failure to claim: *Her membership of the club lapsed because she failed to pay her subscription.*

lapsed /læpst/ *adj* [A] **1** no longer following the practices of esp. one's religion: *a lapsed Catholic* **2** *law* no longer in use: *a lapsed title*

lap-top, **laptop** /'læp- 'tɒp/ *adj, n* [A] (of) a computer small enough to be held on one's knees for use: *I'll take the laptop and do some work on the train.*

lap-wing /'læp, wɪŋ/ also **peewit** — *n* a small bird with raised feathers on its head; its cry sounds like the name peewit

lar-ce-ny /'lɑːsəni- 'lɑːr-/ *n* [C;U] *law* (an act of) stealing — see also PETTY LARCENY

larch /lɑːtʃ/ 'lɑːrtʃ/ *n* a tall upright tree with bright green needle-like leaves and hard-skinned fruit (CONES)

lard¹ /lɑːd/ 'lɑːrd/ *n* [U] pig fat made pure by melting, used in cookery

lard² *v* [T] **1** to put small pieces of BACON into or on (other meat) before cooking **2** [(with)] to use lots of noticeable phrases, esp. of a particular kind, in one's (speech or writing): *His conversation was liberally larded with obscenities.*

lar-der /'lɑːdə- 'lɑːr-/ *n* a storeroom or cupboard for food in a house — compare PANTRY

la-res and pe-na-tes /'lɑːreɪz ənd pe'naːteɪz/ 'læriːz ənd pə'nei-/ *n* [P] in classical MYTHOLOGY, the Roman gods of the house, the lares being protectors of people and the penates protectors of possessions

large /lɑːdʒ/ 'lɑːrdʒ/ *adj* **1** more than usual in size, number, or amount; big: *a large house/sum of money/number of people* | *large employers* (=firms who employ lots of people) | *The company is too small to manufacture clothes on a large scale.* — opposite **small** **2** (as) **large as life** *infml* (of a person) unexpectedly present: *We thought he'd gone to Australia, but there he was, (as) large as life!* **3** **at large**: **a** (esp. of a dangerous person or animal) free; uncontrolled: *Two of the escaped prisoners are still at large.* **b** as a whole; altogether: *The country at large is hoping for great changes.* — see BIG (USAGE); see also LARGELY, **by and large** (BY²) — **ness** *n* [U]

Large, Ed-die /'edi/ (1942–) a British COMEDIAN best known for his partnership with Syd Little esp. in the British television show *Little and Large*. Large is a big man and Little is small.

large in-tes-tine /,lɑː- 'ɪn- 'tɪn-/ *n* the lower bowel, including the COLON and RECTUM, where food is changed into solid waste matter — compare SMALL INTESTINE

large-ly /'lɑːdʒli- 'lɑːr-/ *adv* to a great degree; mostly; mainly: *This country is largely desert.* | *His success is largely due to his own hard work.*

lar-ge-ss also **-gess** *AmE* /lɑː'zes/ 'lɑːr'dʒes/ *n* [U] (something given in) generosity to people who do not have enough.

lar-go /'lɑːgəu- 'lɑːr-/ *n, adj, adv* -os (a piece of music) played slowly and solemnly

lar-i-at /'læriət/ *n* esp. *AmE* for LASSO

lark¹ /lɑːk/ 'lɑːrk/ *n* a small light brown singing bird with long pointed wings, esp. the SKYLARK

lark² *n* esp. *BrE infml*; rather old-fash something done as a joke or for amusement; bit of fun: *We hid the teacher's books for a lark.*

lark³ *v*

lark about/around *phr v* [I] esp. *BrE infml*; rather

old-fash to play rather wildly: *I'm sorry we broke the chair – we were only larking about.*

Lar-kin /'lɑ:kɪn||'lɑ:r-/ , **Philip** (1922–85) an English poet. He often wrote about death and loneliness and his poems are sometimes very sad, but people like them because they are written in plain and simple language. His most famous poems are *Aubade*, *High Windows*, and *Whitsun Weddings*.

Lark Rise to Can-dle-ford /,lɑ:k ,raɪz tə 'kændlfəd||,lɑ:rk, -fərd/ a set of three books written by Flora Thompson between 1939 and 1945, about her life in the country in England in the early 20th century and the customs of that way of life, which no longer exists in England

lark-spur /'lɑ:kspɜ:ɹ||'lɑ:r-/ *n* a DELPHINIUM

La Rue /lə 'ru:/, **Dan-ny** /'dæni/ (1927–) an Irish actor and entertainer well known through his own television show and for dressing up as a woman for part of his act

lar-va /'lɑ:və||'lɑ:rvə/ *n* -vae /vi:/ the wormlike young of an insect between leaving the egg and changing into a winged form —**val** *adj*

lar-yn-gi-tis /,lærɪn'dʒaɪtɪs/ *n* [U] a painful swollen condition of the larynx which makes it difficult to speak: *suffering from (acute) laryngitis*

lar-ynx /'lærɪŋks/ also **voice box** *infml*— *n* -ynges /lə-'rɪndʒɪz/(*med*) or -ynxes the hollow boxlike part at the upper end of the throat in which the sounds of the voice are produced by the VOCAL CORDS —see picture at RESPIRATORY

la-sa-gna , -gne /lə'sænjə, -'zæn-||-'zɑ:n-/ *n* [U] (an Italian dish made with) broad flat pieces of PASTA, meat or vegetables, and usu. cheese

La Salle /lə 'sæl/, **Ren-é Ro-ber** /reneɪ 'rɒbeəɹ || rə'nei rɑ:'beəɹ/, **Sieur de** /'sjɜ:ɹ də/ (1643–87) a French EXPLORER who travelled through N America, down the Mississippi river, and established Louisiana. He was killed by his companions after getting lost.

La Sca-la /lə 'skɑ:lə||lɑ:-/ a famous theatre in Milan where OPERAS are performed. Most of the very best singers have sung there.

las-civ-i-ous /lə'sɪvɪəs/ *adj* *derog* feeling or showing uncontrolled sexual desire: *a lascivious look* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

la-ser /'leɪzəɹ/ *n* (an apparatus for producing) a very hot narrow beam of light, used for cutting metals and other hard substances and in medical operations, etc.; also sometimes used in light shows for entertainment: *laser beams* | *laser surgery* —compare MASER

laser print-er /'læɪə ,prɪnt-ɹ/ *n* a machine, esp. one connected to a computer system, that produces printed material by means of laser light

lash¹ /læʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to hit hard (as if) with a whip: *He lashed the horse cruelly.* | (fig.) *The newspaper headline is "Judge lashes drug dealers".* (=attacks them violently with words) **2** [I+adv/prep;T] to hit or move violently or suddenly: *The waves lashed (against) the rocks.* | *The rain lashed down.* **3** [T+prep, esp. into] to cause to have sudden strong violent feelings: *The speaker lashed the crowd into a fury of hatred.* **4** [T+obj+adv/prep] to tie firmly, esp. with rope: *We had to lash the cargo to the ship's deck during the storm.*

lash out *phr v* **1** [I (at, against)] to make a sudden violent attacking movement: (fig.) *In his speech he lashed out at his critics.* **2** [I;T (=lash out sthg.) (on)] *BrE infml* to spend (a lot of money), esp. wastefully: *He lashed out (£12,000) on a new car.*

lash² *n* **1** a hit with a whip: *His punishment was thirty lashes.* **2** the thin bendable part of a whip **3** a sudden or violent movement: *With a lash of its tail the tiger leaped at her.* **4** an EYELASH

lash-ings /'læʃɪŋz/ *n* [P (of)] *infml*, esp. *BrE* a large amount, esp. of food and drink; lots: *apple pie with lashings of cream*

lash-up /'læʃ-ʊ/ *n* *BrE infml*; often *derog* an arrangement of e.g. electrical apparatus put together quickly to be used for only a limited period

Las Pal-mas /læs 'pælməs||lɑ:s 'pɑ:l-/ a popular tourist town on Gran Canaria in the Canary Islands, much visited by the British on holiday

lass /læs/ also *lassie*— *n* esp. *ScotE* & *N EngE* **1** a girl or young woman **2** a GIRLFRIEND —compare LAD

Las-sie /'læsi/ a dog who was the main character in seven films made between 1943 and 1951 and later television programmes and CARTOONS. In the films, etc. Lassie often bravely and cleverly saved her human family and others from danger.

las-si-tude /'læsɪtju:d||'læsətju:d, -tu:d/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** tiredness **2** laziness: *He accused the official of moral lassitude.* (=failure to keep up good moral standards)

las-so¹ /lə'su:, 'læsəʊ/ also *lariat* esp. *AmE*— *n* -sos a rope with one end that can be tightened in a circle (NOOSE), used esp. in the US for catching horses and cattle

lasso² *v* [T] to catch with a lasso: *The cowboy lassoed the wild horse.*

last¹ /lɑ:st||læst/ *determiner, adv* **1** after anything else; after the others: *George arrived last/was the last person to arrive.* **2** being the only remaining; FINAL: *This is my last £5.* | *We've almost finished packing – this is the last suitcase.* | *That is the last time I invite him to dinner.* (=I will not invite him again.) **3** on the occasion nearest in the past; most recent(ly): *last night* | *last January* | *When did you last see him?* | *I arrived in France last week.* (=in the week before this) | *I've been here for the last week.* (=for the last seven days) | *This week's class was shorter than last week's.* —compare NEXT¹ (2) **4** the least suitable or likely: *He's the last person I'd have expected to see here.* **5** LASTLY **6** last but not least important(ly), although coming at the end: *Last but not least, our thanks are due to the technicians working behind the scenes.* **7** on one's/its last legs *infml* a very tired b nearly worn out or failed: *This car's on its last legs.* c close to death

▷ USAGE **1** When our point of view is in the present, looking back to the past, we say *last night*, *last week*, etc.: *I'm sure I saw George at the club last week.* But when our point of view is in the past, looking even further back into the past, we use expressions like *the night before that*, *the previous week*, etc.: *I was sure I had seen George at the club the previous week.* **2** Compare latest and last. Latest means "new and most recent": *Have you heard the latest news?* Last before a noun means "coming at the end" or "before the latest one": *"The Magic Flute" was Mozart's last opera.* | *Have you read Steinway's latest novel? It's much better than his last one.* ◁

last² *n*, *pron* [(the) S] **1** the person, thing, or group after all others: *"I hope I'm not the last," he said, as he arrived at the party.* [+to-v] *I was the last to arrive.* | *The last I heard she was in Spain.* (=that is the most recent information I have heard about her) —compare FIRST² (1) **2** the only remaining; the end: *They drank up the last of the wine.* | *I'm sure you haven't heard the last of the matter.* (=The matter is not yet finished.) **3** the one or ones before the present one: *He was here the week before last.* (=two weeks ago) **4** at (long) last in the end; after a long time: *At last we found out what had really happened.* | *He's here, at last!* —compare at first (FIRST²); see LASTLY (USAGE) **5** to the last until the latest moment; until the end: *The condemned man continued to the last* (=until he was officially killed) *to insist that he was innocent.* —see also breathe one's last (BREATHE), the first shall be last and the last shall be first (FIRST² (8))

last³ *v* **1** [L+n; I+adv/prep] to continue for the stated length of time; go on: *The lessons last less than an hour.* | *The hot weather lasted until September/for several weeks.* **2** [I (OUT)] to remain in good condition, in existence, or alive: *Her bad mood won't last.* | *This cheap watch won't last (for) very long.* | *I don't know how much longer we can last out without water.* **3** [T (OUT)] to continue in good condition or alive beyond the end of: *He's very ill, and isn't expected to last (out) the night.* **4** [L (+obj)+n] to be enough for: *This food will only last (them) three days.*

last⁴ *n* a piece of wood or metal shaped like a human foot, used by shoemakers and shoe repairers

last call /,lɑ:st kɔ:l/ *n* *AmE* LAST ORDERS

last-ditch /,lɑ:st-ɪtʃ/ *adj* [A] done as one last effort before accepting defeat: *In a last-ditch attempt to save the company from collapsing, they asked the government to lend them money.*

last-ing /'lɑ:stɪŋ||'læs-/ *adj* continuing for a long time; unending: *searching for a lasting peace after so many terrible wars* | *His policies had a lasting effect on our country's economy.*

last judgment /,lɑ:st ʃʌdʒmənt/ [the] (often cap.) JUDGMENT DAY

last-ly /'lɑːstli/ 'læst-/ *adv* after everything else: ... *and lastly, let me mention the great support I've had from my assistant.*

▷ **USAGE** Compare **lastly**, **finally**, **at last**, and **in the end**. **Lastly** and **finally** are often used when you are separating the points you want to make and are putting them in order: *There are three reasons why I hate him: first(ly) he's a cheat, second(ly) he's a liar, and lastly/finally he owes me money.* **At last** and **in the end** cannot be used in this way. These words mean "after a long time; after a lot of waiting": *I tried over and over again and at last/in the end I succeeded.* **Finally** (but not **lastly**) can also be used with this meaning: *I waited for hours and finally/at last/in the end he arrived.* ◀

last min-ute /,lɑː 'miːn.ʊt/ *n* [the] the moment just before an event, decision, etc.: *At the last minute she changed her mind and turned down the job.* | *last-minute preparations*

last name /'lɑː .nə/ *n* esp. AmE SURNAME

Last Night of the Proms /,lɑː .nɪt.əv 'prɒmz/ [the] the last of London's PROMENADE CONCERTS held each summer, when the second half of the programme always consists of the same well-loved tunes and songs which the standing crowds in the Albert Hall sing along with. The programme ends with the song *Land of Hope and Glory*, a PATRIOTIC song, and people sing it while waving Union Jacks (=British national flags).

last num-ber re-call /,lɑː .nʌm.bər 'riː.kəl/ also **-redial**— *n* [U] a feature on a telephone which has the ability to DIAL² again the last number called without the caller having to dial it by hand

Last of the Mo-hi-cans /,lɑː .vɒf ðə 'moʊ.ɪ.kənz/, **The** a NOVEL by James Fenimore Cooper written in 1826 about the lives of Native Americans and early settlers

last or-ders /,lɑː .ɔː.dəz/ *BrE* || **last call** *AmE*— (the words called out at) the time when a PUBLIC HOUSE or bar is about to close and there is just time for one more set of drink orders to be taken

last post /,lɑː .pɒst/ [the] a tune played on a BUGLE at military funerals, or to call soldiers back to camp for the night —see also TAPS

last rites /,lɑː .raɪts/ *n* [P] see RITE

last straw /,lɑː .strɔː/ [the] the difficulty, trouble, etc., that makes the total unbearable when it is added to one's present difficulties or troubles: *After losing my credit cards and having my camera stolen, breaking my leg really was the last straw.* —see also **the straw that breaks the camel's back** (STRAW (6))

Last Sup-per /,lɑː .sʌp.ər/ [the] 1 in the Bible, the meal taken by Jesus and his followers on the evening before he was crucified (CRUCIFY). Jesus shared bread and wine among his followers, beginning the Christian ceremony of the EUCHARIST —see also EUCHARIST 2 a painting of this gathering esp. the one by Leonardo da Vinci (1498)

last word /,lɑː .wɜːd/ [the] 1 [(on)] the word or phrase that ends an argument, usu. giving advantage to the speaker: *She always has to have the last word.* | *That's my last word on the subject.* 2 the deciding judgment: *The last word must rest with the boss.* 3 [+in] *infml* the most modern example: *This computer is the last word in high technology.*

Las Ve-gas /læs 'veɪɡəs/ || lɑːs-/ a city in the desert of Nevada, USA, famous for its very large CASINOS and its entertainment. It grew where it did because gambling (GAMBLE¹ (1)) was not legal in California, and Las Vegas is just over the border in Nevada, where it is legal. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

lat *written abbrev. for:* LATITUDE

latch¹ /lætʃ/ *n* 1 a simple fastening for a door, gate, window, etc., worked by dropping a bar into a U-shaped space: *To open the gate, lift up the latch.* 2 a fastening for a house door that can be opened from the inside with a handle but from the outside only with a key: *I'll leave the door on the latch.* (=fastened only with the latch, not locked)

latch² *v* [I;T] to fasten or be able to be fastened with a latch: *Remember to latch the gate behind you.*

latch on *phr v* [I] *infml* to understand; **CATCH on:** *He's not very clever, so it took him some time to latch on.*

latch onto *sbdy./sthg. phr v* [T] *infml* 1 to gain an

understanding of: *He soon latched onto how to do it.* 2 to start trying to talk to (someone), be friendly with them, etc., and refuse to go away: *He latched onto me at the party and bored me for hours with silly gossip.* 3 to take hold of with the mind; develop an interest in or recognition of: *It has taken the company a long time to latch onto all the new technology now available.*

latch-key /'lætʃkiː/ *n* a key for opening a lock on an outside door of a house or flat

latchkey child /'lætʃkiː .tʃɪld/ *n* a child whose parents are often not at home and who therefore often returns esp. from school to an empty house. The word is used esp. by people who think that women who have young children should not go out to work.

late¹ /leɪt/ *adj* 1 [(for)] arriving, happening, etc., after the usual, arranged, necessary, or expected time: *The train was late.* | *We were late for the train.* (=it left before we arrived) | *I was late for the meeting.* (=it (should have) started before I arrived) | *She was a late developer.* | *Spring is late this year.* | *The doctors were too late to save him.* (=his illness had developed too far) [after *n*] *The train was ten minutes late.* —compare EARLY¹ (1) 2 happening or being towards the end of the day, life, a period, etc.: *She returned in the late afternoon.* | *It's getting late; we must go home.* | *late September* | *the late eighteenth century* | *She's in her late forties, I think* —compare EARLY¹ (2) 3 [A no comp.] *euph* who has died recently: *her late husband* | *the late president* 4 [A no comp.] existing or operating in the recent past but not now; former: *the late government/chairman* 5 [A] happening a short time ago; recent: *the late changes in the government* 6 [A no comp.] just arrived; new; fresh: *Some late news of the war has just come in.* 7 **better late than never** an old saying —see also LATELY, LATEST — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

late² *adv* 1 after the usual, arranged, necessary, or expected time: *They stayed up late to watch the election results on the television.* [after *n*] *The bus arrived five minutes late.* 2 towards the end of a period: *late in the evening/at night* | *The bush was planted late in the season.* 3 until or at a late time of the night: *We went to bed late.* | *working late* 4 [of] *fml* until recently; LATELY: *Dr Smith, late of the Maudsley Hospital, has now taken up private practice.* 5 **of late** recently; LATELY: *He's been behaving very strangely of late.* —compare EARLY²

late book-ing /,lɑː .bʊk.ɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] (esp. in Britain) holiday arrangements made, or the practice of making such arrangements, a very short time before one goes. This is often very much cheaper than the same arrangement made a long time before: *Late bookings! Leave tomorrow for only £50!*

late-com-er /'leɪt.kəmər/ *n* someone who arrives late

late-ly /'leɪtli/ *adv* 1 in the recent past and up until now: *I've not been feeling very well (just) lately.* 2 *fml* until recently (but no longer): *Professor Brown, lately of Edinburgh, is now head of department at Manchester.*

late-night /'lɑː .naɪt/ *adj* [A] of or happening late at night: *The late-night news*

late-night shop-ping /,lɑː .nɪt.əv 'ʃɒp.ɪŋ/ also **late shopping**— *n* [U] *BrE* shopping until 8 o'clock at night or later. In Britain, shops usu. close at 5.30 or 6 o'clock, but they often stay open for late-night shopping on one evening a week and during very busy periods, e.g. just before Christmas: *We're going into town for the late-night shopping.* | *We close at six, except for late shopping on Thursdays till eight.*

la-tent /'leɪtənt/ *adj* *usu. fml* present but not yet noticeable, active, or fully developed: *a latent infection* | *latent aggression* | *These aggressive tendencies remained latent.* —**tency** *n* [U]

latent heat /,lɑː .hiːt/ *n* [U] *tech* the additional heat necessary to change a solid (at its MELTING POINT) into a liquid, or a liquid (at its BOILING POINT) into a gas

lat-er /'leɪtər/ *adv* 1 at a later time; afterwards: *At first he denied all guilt, but he later made a partial confession.* | *I'll tell/see you later.* (=after some time has passed) 2 **later on** afterwards: *It wasn't until later on that we realized she'd gone.*

lat-e-ral¹ /'lætərəl/ *adj fml* of, at, from, or towards the side: *lateral movement* — ~ **ly** *adv*

lateral² *n tech* something, such as a branch, which is at or comes from the side

lateral think-ing /ˌleɪtəl ˈθɪŋk/ *n* [U] a CREATIVE way of thinking which tries to use imagination and humour to find new and clever answers to problems. It was invented by Edward de Bono.

late shop-ping /ˌleɪt ˈʃɒpɪŋ/ *n* LATE-NIGHT SHOPPING

lat-est¹ /ˈleɪtɪst/ *adj* [A] most recent: *Her latest book is selling very well.* —see LAST¹ (USAGE)

latest² *n* [the] 1 [(in)] the most recent example, news, or fashion: *This case is the latest in a series of British spy scandals.* | *Have you heard the latest about the war?* | *The salesman showed us the latest in computer software packages.* 2 **at the latest** not later than the stated time: *Please be here by 9 o'clock at the latest.* —opposite **at the earliest**

Late Sum-mer Hol-i-day /ˌleɪt ˈsʌmər ˈhɒlɪdaɪ/ [the] see AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

la-tex /ˈleɪtɛks/ *n* [U] 1 a thick whitish liquid produced by certain plants, esp. the rubber tree 2 a material produced from this: *latex goods*

lath /lɑːθ/ *n* **laths** /lɑːðz, lɑːθs/ *n* a long flat narrow piece of wood used in building to support PLASTER (=wall-covering material) or TILES or SLATES (=roof-covering materials)

lathe /leɪð/ *n* a machine for shaping that turns a piece of wood or metal round and round against a sharp tool

la-ther¹ /ˈlɑːðər/ *n* [S;U] 1 a a white mass produced by shaking a mixture of soap and water: *Brush the shaving cream until a lather forms.* b a mass like this which is the result of heavy sweating (SWEAT), esp. by a horse 2 **in a lather** BrE hot and anxious, esp. because of lack of time — *~y adj*

lather² *v* 1 [I] (esp. of soap) to produce a lather: *This detergent lathers easily.* 2 [T (UP)] to cover with lather: *He stood in the shower lathering his back.* 3 [T] *infml* rare to hit violently

Lat-i-mer /ˈlætɪmə/ *n*, **Hugh** /hjuː/ (1485–1555) an English BISHOP who was burned as a HERETIC in Oxford

Lat-in¹ /ˈlætɪn/ *n* 1 [U] the language of the ancient Romans 2 [C] a Latin person

Latin² *adj* 1 (written) in Latin: *a Latin inscription* 2 of a nation that speaks a language developed from Latin, such as Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese

Latin A-mer-i-can /ˌleɪtən ˈæmərɪkən/ *adj* of the Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking countries of South and Central America (known as **Latin America**)

Latin lov-er /ˌleɪtən ˈlʌvər/ *n* a man from southern Europe who is PASSIONATE and skilled at LOVEMAKING. It is often thought in Britain that the French, Italians, Greeks, etc. make better lovers than the British.

La-ti-no /ləˈtiːnoʊ/ *n* AmE a person living in the US who is from or whose family was from a Central or South American culture: *The school is 65% latino, 30% black, and 5% white.* —**Latino** *adj*: *Latino culture*

Latin Quar-ter /ˈleɪtən ˈkwɔːtər/ [the] a part of Paris on the left bank of the river Seine, where many students and artists live

lat-i-tude /ˈlætɪtjuːd/ *n* 1 [C;U] the distance north or south of the EQUATOR measured in degrees: *The latitude of the island is 20 degrees south.* —compare LONGITUDE and see picture at GLOBE 2 [S] also **latitudes** *pl.* — an area at a particular latitude: *At this latitude/these latitudes you often get strong winds.* 3 [U] *fml* freedom to do, say, etc., what one likes: *The new law allows firms a lot less latitude than before in fixing the price of their goods.* —**tudinal** /ˌlætɪˈtjuːdɪnəl/ *adj*

lat-ke /ˈlɑːtkə/ *n* a Jewish potato PANCAKE

la-trine /ləˈtriːn/ *n* a TOILET, esp. an outdoor one in a camp, military area, etc.

lat-ter¹ /ˈlætər/ *adj* [A no comp.] *fml* near to the end; later: *In the latter years of his life he lived alone and never welcomed visitors.*

latter² *adj*, *n* **latter** [A;C] *rather fml* the second (of two people or things just mentioned): *If offered red or white, I'd choose the latter (wine).* (=white wine) —opposite **former**

latter-day /ˈleɪtər ˈdeɪ/ *adj* [A no comp.] modern; recent: *a latter-day hero*

Latter-Day Saints /ˌleɪtər ˈdeɪ ˈseɪnts/ [the+P] the MORMONS

lat-ter-ly /ˈlætərli/ *adv* *fml* (more) recently —compare FORMERLY

lat-tice /ˈlætɪs/ also **lat-tice-work** /ˈlætɪswɜːk/ *n* 1 a frame of flat pieces of wood or metal crossed over each other with open spaces between, used as a fence, a support for climbing plants, etc. —compare TRELLIS 2 also **lattice win-dow** /ˈlætɪs ˈwɪndəʊ/ — an old type of window with many small pieces of glass held together by narrow pieces of lead

Lat-vi-a /ˈlætvɪə/ a country in NE Europe next to the Baltic sea, bordered by Russia, Estonia, and Lithuania; Capital Riga; population 2,681,000 (1989) —**Latvian** *n*, *adj*: *the Latvian ambassador*

laud /ləʊd/ *v* [T] *old use or pomp* to praise: *It's annoying to see a rival's work lauded to the skies.* (=praised very greatly)

Laud, William (1573–1645) an English priest who was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1633

Lau-da /ˈlaʊdə/, **Nik-i** /ˈnɪki/ (1949–) an Austrian motor-racing driver who was the Formula 1 world CHAMPION in 1975 and 1977. He was very badly burned in an accident in 1976 but was able to continue racing.

lau-da-ble /ˈləʊdəbəl/ *adj* (esp. of behaviour, actions, etc.) good and deserving praise, even though perhaps not completely successful: *Despite his laudable attempts to bring the two sides together, the dispute continued to drag on.* —compare LAUDATORY —**bly** *adv* —**bility** /ˈləʊdəˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

lau-da-num /ˈləʊdənəm/ *n* [U] a substance containing the drug OPIUM in alcohol, used, esp. formerly, as a medicine to lessen pain and for its pleasant effects

lau-da-to-ry /ˈləʊdətəri/ *adj* *fml* expressing praise or admiration: *laudatory comments* —compare LAUDABLE

Lau-der /ˈləʊdə/, **Es-tée** /esˈteɪ/ (1908–), an American woman who began the cosmetics (COSMETIC¹) business which bears her name and is now known internationally

laugh¹ /lɑːf/ *v* 1 [I (at)] to express amusement, happiness, careless disrespect, etc., by breathing out forcefully so that one makes sounds with the voice, usu. while smiling: *It was so funny, we couldn't help laughing.* | *Don't laugh — this is a serious matter.* | *I told him not to be so rude, but he just laughed.* | *No one laughs at my jokes.* | (fig.) *her laughing eyes* (=bright happy-looking eyes) 2 [T+obj+adv/prep] to bring, put, etc., with laughing: *The pathetic performance was laughed off the stage.* 3 [T+obj+adj] to cause (oneself) to become by laughing: *It was such a ridiculous suggestion that we all laughed ourselves silly.* (=laughed very much) | *He laughed himself hoarse.* 4 **laugh all the way to the bank** to show pleasure because one has gained financially (often at someone else's EXPENSE (2)) 5 **laugh and the world laughs with you; weep, and you weep alone** *quote* a phrase from a poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox 6 **laugh in someone's face** to show clear disrespect or disobedience towards someone: *I suggested that he should work late and he laughed in my face.* 7 **laugh like a drain** BrE *infml* to laugh loudly, openly, and perhaps rudely 8 **laugh on the 'other side of one's face** (usu. said unkindly) to experience disappointment, sorrow, failure, etc., after expecting success or joy: *Wait until you see the exam results; you'll be laughing on the other side of your face!* 9 **laugh something out of court** to refuse to consider (something) because it is too silly: *The idea was laughed out of court.* 10 **no 'laughing matter** serious; not a suitable subject for jokes: *Losing your job is no laughing matter, I can tell you.* 11 **laugh up one's sleeve** to laugh secretly and often unkindly

▷ USAGE When you **laugh** you produce sounds with the voice while smiling. To **guffaw** (*rare*) means “to laugh loudly” and to **chuckle** means “to laugh quietly, with pleasure or satisfaction”. To **giggle** (in Britain used especially about young girls) is to laugh repeatedly in an uncontrolled way. To **titter** is to **giggle** quietly in a nervous or silly way. If you laugh quietly in an unpleasant and rude way, you **snigger** (AmE **snicker**). All these words can be used both as verbs and as nouns. —see also SMILE (USAGE)◁

laugh at sthg./sbdy. *phr* *v* [T] 1 to treat as foolish or as not worth serious consideration: *They'll just laugh at you if you can't think of a better excuse than that.* | *Soccer hooligans just laugh at the sort of sentences courts give them.* 2 to take no notice of; not care: *She laughs at (the idea of) danger.*

laugh sthg. ↔ off *phr* *v* [T] to pretend, by laughing or

joking, that (something) is less serious or important than it really is: *Publicly, they're trying to laugh off this latest failure, but in private they're very worried.*

laugh² *n* 1 [C] an act or sound of laughing: *She gave a (happy) laugh.* 2 [S] *infml* something done for a joke or amusement: *Wouldn't it be a laugh to tie his shoelaces together!* 3 **have the last laugh** to win an argument, competition, etc., esp. after earlier defeats; have one's opinions, actions, etc., proved to be correct in the end 4 **have the laugh on** to make a fool of someone who was trying to make others look foolish

laugh-a-ble /'lɑ:fəbəl/ *adj* 1 *derog* so bad or foolish that it cannot be taken seriously: *a laughable attempt to deceive the public* 2 *rare* amusing; funny — **bly** *adv*: *The proposals were almost laughably inadequate.*

Laugh-In /'lɔ:ɪn/ an American television programme of the 1960s in which many now famous performers first appeared

Laughing Cav-a-lier /'lɔ:ɪŋ kəvə'liə/ [*the*] the name of a painting of an unknown man by Frans Hals — see colour picture on page 1016

laugh-ing gas /'lɔ:ɪŋ ɡæs/ *n* [U] NITROUS OXIDE

laughing hy-e-na /'lɔ:ɪŋ haɪ'neɪ/ *n* a HYENA

laughing jack-ass /'lɔ:ɪŋ ʃæk'æs/ *n* a KOOKABURRA

laugh-ing-ly /'lɔ:ɪŋli/ *adv* 1 with a laugh 2 not seriously; as a joke: *He's often laughingly referred to as the forgotten man of British politics.*

laugh-ing-stock /'lɔ:ɪŋstɒk/ *n* someone or something that is regarded as foolish and causes unkind laughter: *His silly behaviour made him a laughing-stock/made him the laughing-stock of the office.* (=everyone in the office laughed at him)

laugh-ter /'lɔ:ftə/ *n* [U] the act or sound of laughing

Laugh-ton /'lɔ:tn/, **Charles** (1899–1962) an American character actor born in Britain, regarded as one of the great film actors of the first half of the 20th century — see picture at HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

launch¹ /lɔ:ntʃ/ *v* [T] 1 to send (a boat, esp. one that has just been built) into the water: *The new aircraft carrier was officially launched by the queen.* 2 to send (a modern weapon or instrument) into the sky or space, esp. with a ROCKET: *Our nuclear missiles can be launched at a moment's notice.* 3 to begin (an activity, plan, way of life, etc.): *He launched a fierce attack on his political opponents.* | *She's planning to launch a company to make electronic toys.* | *They held a special party to launch the new book.* (=to bring it to public attention when it came out) 4 [(at)] to throw very hard: (fig.) *He launched himself at the thief and brought him to the ground.* — see also **the face that launched a thousand ships** (FACE) — **er** *n*: *a rocket launcher*

launch into sthg. *phr v* [T] to begin eagerly, forcefully, etc.: *He launched into a violent attack on my handling of the affair.*

launch out *phr v* [I+adv/prep] to make an important new beginning, esp. at something rather risky: *He left his father's shop and launched out into business for himself.*

launch² *n* an act of launching: *Were you at the launch of the new ship/book?*

launch³ *n* a usu. large motor-driven boat used for carrying people on rivers, lakes, HARBOURS, etc.

launch pad /'lɔ:ntʃ pæd/ also **launching pad** /'lɔ:ɪŋ pæd/ *n* a base from which a MISSILE or space vehicle is sent off into the sky: (fig) *The marketing campaign will be the launch pad for a whole range of new products.*

laun-der /'lɔ:ndə/ *v* [T] 1 to wash, or wash and iron (clothes, sheets, etc.): *We must have these bedclothes laundered.* 2 *infml* to give (something, esp. money obtained illegally) the appearance of being legal

laun-derette, **laundrette** /lɔ:n'dret/ *esp. BrE* || also **laun-dro-mat** /'lɔ:ndrəmət/ *tdmk esp. AmE* — *n* a shop where the public can wash their clothes in machines that work when coins are put in them

laun-dry /'lɔ:ndri/ *n* 1 [C] a place or business where clothes, etc., are washed and ironed 2 [U] clothes, sheets, etc., that need to be washed or have just been laundered: *There's a lot of laundry in the basket.*

laundry bas-ket /'lɔ:ndri bæskɪt/ also **linen basket**, also **hamper** *AmE* — *n* a large basket in which dirty clothing, sheets, etc., are carried or put ready for washing

laundry list /'lɔ:ndri lɪst/ *n AmE infml* a list of things one needs: *The Pentagon presented Congress with a laundry list of new weapons.*

Lau-ra Ash-ley /'lɔ:rə 'æfli/ (one of) a group of shops which, like the things sold in them, carry the name of their DESIGNER¹, Laura Ashley. People think of Laura Ashley shops esp. as selling women's clothes made of cotton with flowery patterns, but the shops also sell furniture, curtains and WALLPAPER. — see also Laura ASHLEY

Lau-ra-sia /lɔ:'reɪʃə/ the large land mass that existed before it split apart to form North America, Europe, Asia, and Greenland — see also GONDWANALAND, PANGAEA

laur-e-ate /'lɔ:ri:t/ *n* someone who has won a particular high honour: *a Nobel laureate in physics* — see also POET LAUREATE

laur-el /'lɔ:rəl/ *n* 1 [C;U] a small tree with smooth shiny dark green leaves that do not fall in winter 2 [C] also **laurels** *pl.* — honour gained for something done: *The minister has been given the credit for achieving the settlement, but the laurels rightfully belong to the civil servants.* — see also **look to one's laurels** (LOOK to), **rest on one's laurels** (REST on)

Laurel and Har-dy /'lɔ:rəl 'hɑ:di/ an American film partnership, Stan Laurel (1890–1965) and Oliver Hardy (1892–1957), who made many humorous popular films in the 1930s with the same two central characters, Laurel being the smaller, thin one and Hardy the taller, fat one: *That thin little man and his huge wife look like Laurel and Hardy!* — see picture on page 553

Lau-ren /'lɔ:rən/, **Ralph** /rælf/ (1939–) an American clothes DESIGNER known esp. for his informal clothes

la-va /'lɔ:və/ *n* [U] 1 rock in a very hot liquid state flowing from a VOLCANO 2 this material when it has become cool and turned into a grey solid with many small holes

lav-a-to-ri-al /lævə'tɔ:riəl/ *adj derog, often humor* showing an unhealthily strong interest in the bodily processes connected with lavatories, and/or in sex

lav-a-tory /'lævətɔ:ri/ also **lav** /læv/*infml* — *BrE n* a TOILET (1,2): *to go to the lavatory* | *a public lavatory* — see TOILET (USAGE)

lavatory pa-per /'lævətɔ:ri pæpə/ *n* [U] TOILET PAPER

lav-en-der /'lævəndə/ *n* [U] 1 a plant with stems of small strongly smelling pale purple flowers 2 the dried flowers and stems of this plant used for giving stored clothes, sheets, etc., a pleasant smell 3 a pale purple colour: *lavender(-coloured) writing paper*

lavender wa-ter /'lævəndə wɔ:tə/ *n* [U] a PERFUME made from lavender oils and alcohol. Lavender water is rather old-fashioned and is connected esp. with old UPPER-CLASS ladies.

la-ver /'lɔ:və/ *n* [U] a type of SEAWEED (=sea plant) which can be eaten and which is collected esp. on Scottish and Japanese coasts. Laver bread is a favourite Welsh dish usu. eaten at breakfast. The laver is cut up and boiled then fried (FRY) in butter. Although it is called "bread", it is more liquid than solid and feels slippery.

lav-ish¹ /'lævɪʃ/ *adj* 1 [(with, (fml) of)] very generous or wasteful in giving or using: *a lavish spender* (=who spends a lot, or perhaps too much) | *She'd been a bit too lavish with the salt, so the soup didn't taste very nice.* 2 given, spent, or produced in great (or perhaps too great) quantity: *lavish praise* | *expenditure on a lavish scale* — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

lavish² *v*

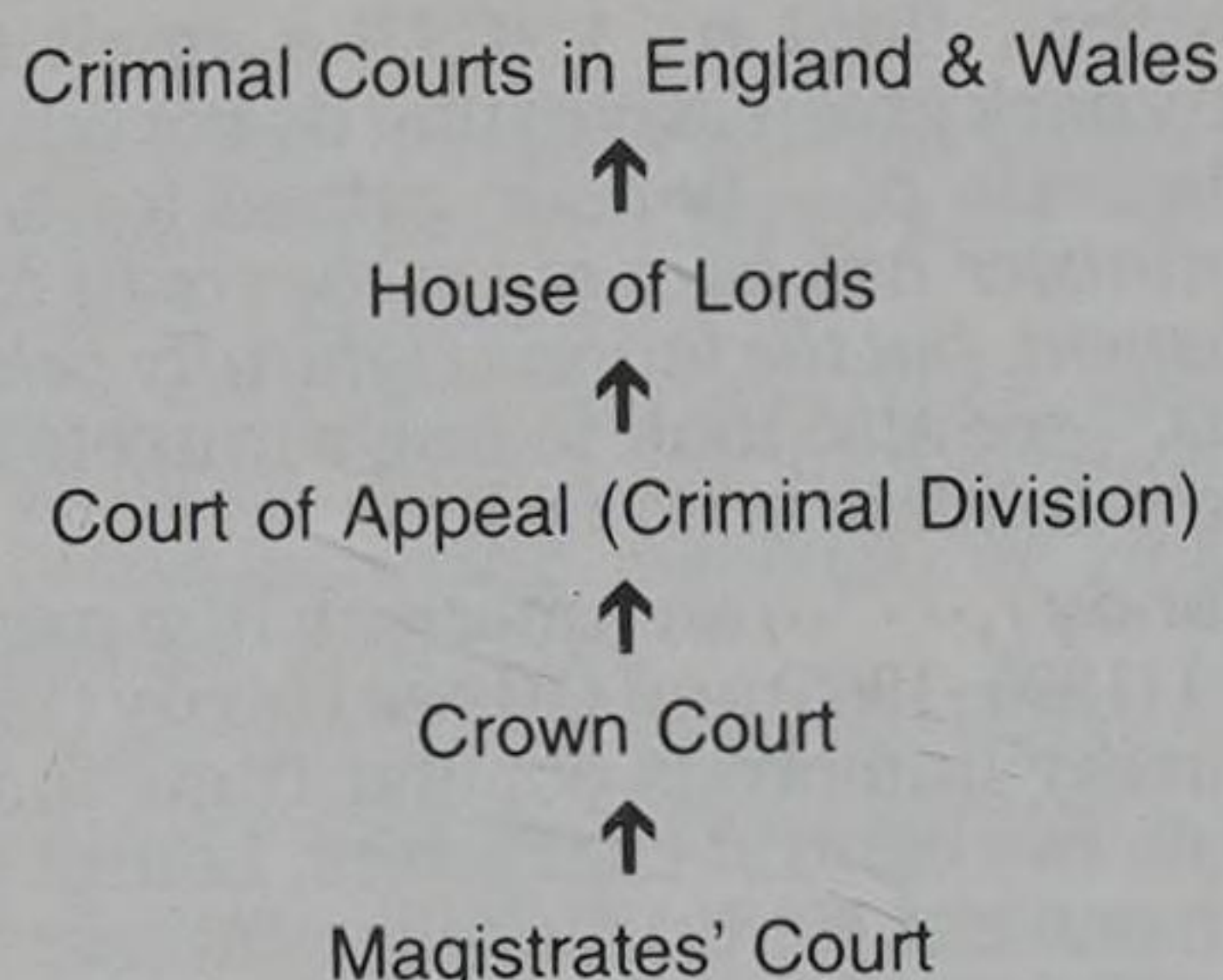
lavish sthg. **on/upon** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to give to or spend on generously or wastefully: *He'd lavished most of his fortune on impractical business ventures.* | *She lavishes a lot of attention on her friends.*

law /lɔ:/ *n* 1 [C (against)] a rule that is supported by the power of government and that controls the behaviour of members of a society: *Parliament makes/passes laws.* | *There ought to be a law against that sort of antisocial behaviour.* | *With the president's signature the bill becomes a law.* 2 [*the*+S] the whole set of such rules: *Once they are approved by Parliament, the new traffic regulations will become law.* (=people will have to obey them) | *There is nothing in law that requires it.* | *In court, the jury decides on matters of fact, but the judge advises them on matters of law.* | *The law forbids stealing.* | *If you break the law, you must expect to be punished.* | *Driving when you've*

In both Britain and the US, when a person is accused (ACCUSE) of a crime it must be shown that they are guilty 'beyond reasonable doubt'. A person is always innocent in the eyes of the law until they have been proved to be guilty. If the person is found guilty by a court they can sometimes ask for permission to APPEAL to a higher court in the hope that it will change this decision (see diagram below).

The Appeals System

The diagram shows the courts in order of importance, with arrows representing the appeals system



Criminal law in England and Wales

When someone is arrested (ARREST) by the police, a MAGISTRATE (=an official who judges cases in some types of courts) decides whether there is enough EVIDENCE against the person for the case to go to court. If there is enough evidence and the case is a serious one, the person accused of the crime (called '**the accused**') is sent to a CROWN COURT for a TRIAL with a JUDGE and JURY (=12 members of the public who have to decide if the accused is innocent or guilty). If the VERDICT (=decision) of the jury is that the accused is guilty, then the judge decides the SENTENCE(2) (=punishment). If there is enough evidence against the accused but the crime is not a serious one (for example a traffic offence) then the case is heard in a MAGISTRATES COURT.

If found guilty in the Crown Court the accused may apply to the COURT OF APPEAL (Criminal Division) where he or she will be heard by a judge. Sometimes a HIGH COURT judge from the Queen's Bench Division assists in dealing with criminal matters in the Court of Appeal or Crown Court.

Criminal law in Northern Ireland

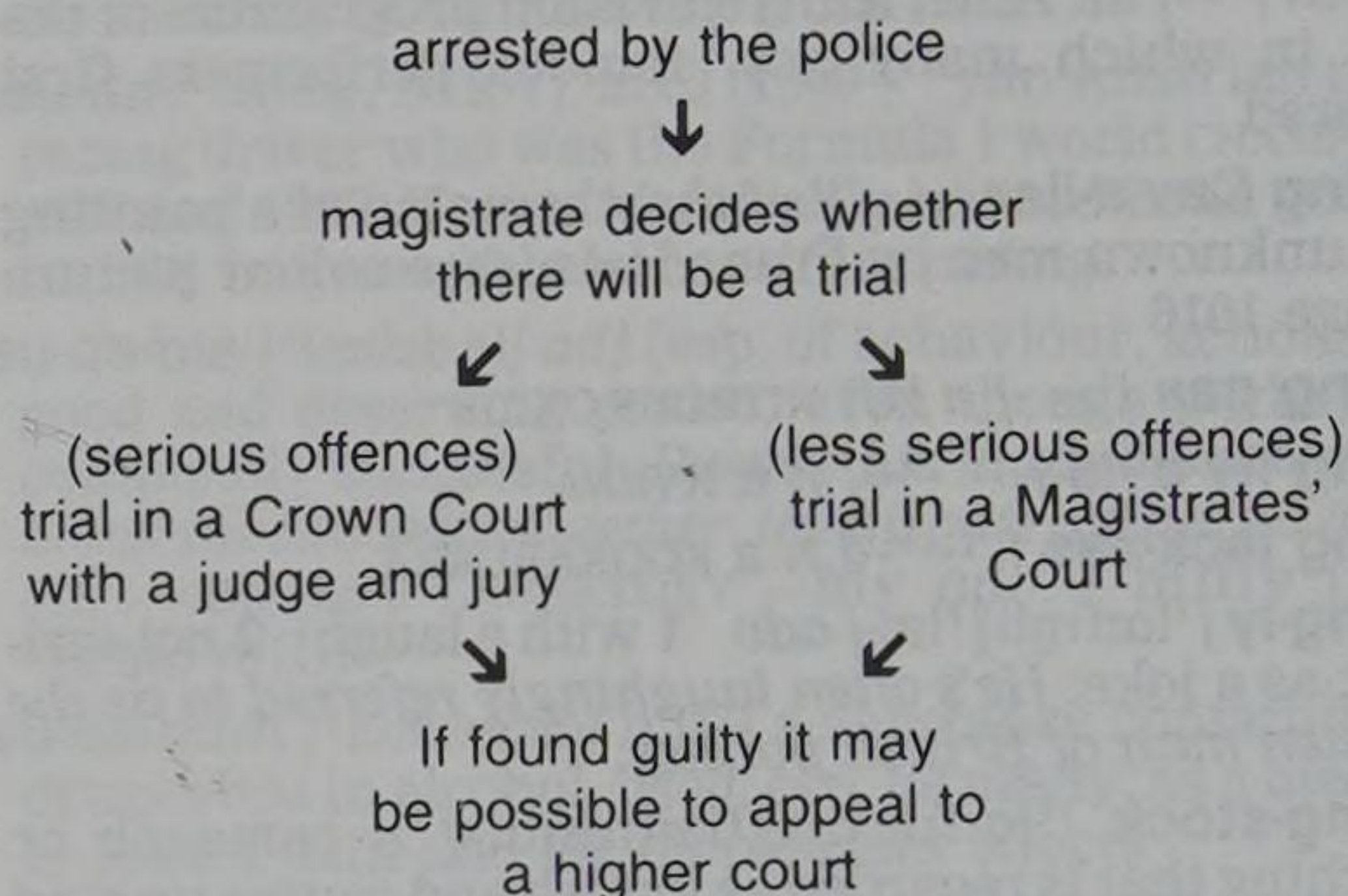
In Northern Ireland, as in England and Wales, someone accused of a crime may be tried in a Magistrates' Court or a Crown Court depending on how serious the crime is. Appeals from the Crown Court are heard in the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal.

Criminal law in Scotland

Scotland has a separate court system. After a person is arrested by the police, an official called the PROCURATOR FISCAL is in charge of deciding whether there is enough evidence against the accused for a trial. If there is enough evidence and the crime is a very serious one, the accused is sent to the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICIARY where there is a judge and jury (in Scotland there are 15 people on a jury). If there is enough evidence but the crime is a less serious one, the case is heard in a SHERIFF COURT (the SHERIFF is a trained lawyer who acts as a judge). Appeals from the Sheriff Court go to the High Court of Justiciary.

Criminal law in England Wales

The diagram shows the possible events following an arrest



Criminal law in the US

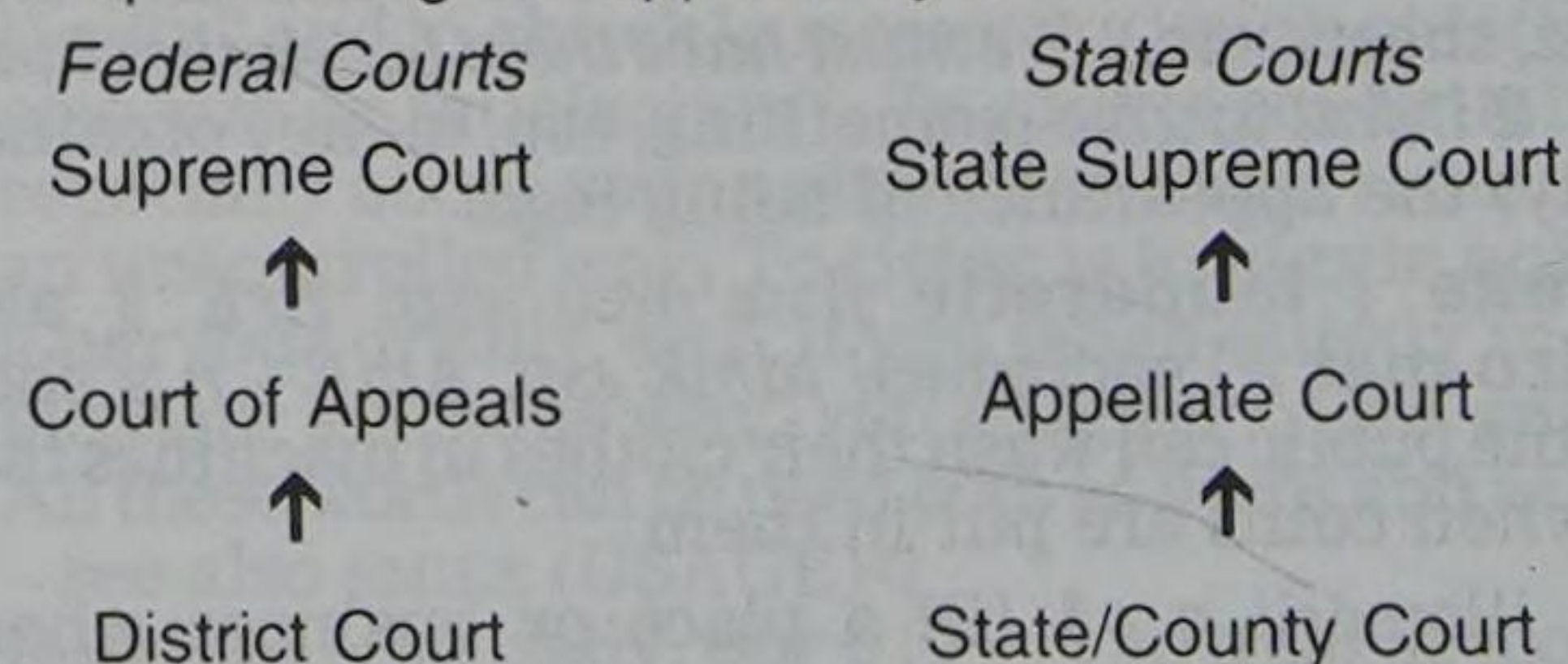
The US has two separate court systems. In general terms STATE COURTS are used when someone has done something against the laws or CONSTITUTION of a particular state. FEDERAL COURTS deal with cases to do with the laws and constitution of the United States as a whole. Federal courts also hear cases where the US government is one of the sides involved. Cases for crimes which are not serious are likely to be heard in state courts. Serious crimes may be tried in either state courts or federal courts depending on the situation, for example, cases where a crime has taken place in another state are often heard in federal courts.

After a person has been arrested a magistrate, or in some cases a GRAND JURY made up of between 16 and 23 citizens, decides whether they should go to trial. If there is enough evidence for a trial the accused goes to court and has to state whether he/she is **guilty or not guilty** of the crime. If they say they are not guilty they are sent to trial with a judge and jury (of 6 or 12 citizens) in either a State or COUNTY COURT or, in federal cases, a DISTRICT COURT. If the accused is found guilty they may have the right to appeal to a higher court, as shown below.

The final court of appeal in the US federal system and for some cases in the state courts is the US SUPREME COURT. It is made up of a CHIEF JUSTICE and eight ASSOCIATES. The accused does not have the right to be heard by the Supreme Court, but the Supreme Court decides which cases it will hear. — see also page 751.

The Appeals System

The diagram shows the courts in order of importance with arrows representing the appeals system.



had too much to drink is against the law. (=is illegal) | *She's been studying law for five years.* (=learning these rules and studying how they operate) | *business law* (=the set of laws concerned with business) | *a leading London law firm* (=a firm of lawyers) **3** [C] a rule of action in a sport, art, business, etc.: *the laws of cricket/commerce* **4** [C] a statement expressing what has been seen always to happen in certain conditions: *Boyle's law is a scientific principle.* | *the law of gravity* | *the laws of nature* **5** [the+sing./pl. v] *infrm* the police or a policeman: *The law was/were there in force.* (=many policemen were there) **6** [the] *cap.* the instructions in the first five books of the BIBLE on how to live one's life, believed to have been written by Moses **7** *be a law unto oneself* to take no notice of the law and other rules of behaviour, and do what one wishes **8** *go to law* (of a private person, not the police or the state) to bring a matter to a court of law for a decision **9** *law and order* respect and obedience for the law in society: *to establish/keep law and order* | *a breakdown in law and order* **10** *law of averages* the rule that if the chances of anything happening or not happening are equal, it will happen exactly half the time (if attempted often enough) **11** *pomp, humor the long arm of the law* justice, esp. in the form of the police, considered as something that criminals cannot escape from **12** *take the law into one's own hands* to take no notice of society's rules and act alone, usu. by force: *He took the law into his own hands and shot the burglar.* —see also CIVIL LAW, COMMON LAW, POOR LAW, ROMAN LAW, SOD'S LAW, UNWRITTEN LAW, **lay down the law** (LAY down) and see also extra information on page 742

law-a-bid-ing /'lɔːbɪdɪŋ/ *adj* habitually obeying the law: *an honest, law-abiding citizen*

law-break-er /'lɔːbreɪkə/ *n* a person who breaks the law; a criminal — **law-breaking** *n* [U]: *law-breaking is on the increase*

law en-force-ment /'lɔːɪnfɔːsmənt/ *n* [U] the act of causing (a rule or law) to be obeyed or carried out effectively: *a law enforcement officer* | *The police are responsible for law enforcement.*

law en-force-ment a-gent /'lɔːɪnfɔːsmənt ədʒənt/ *n* a policeman or officer of the law

law firm /'lɔːfɜːm/ *n* AmE a business company specializing in legal services and employing usu. many LAWYERS

law-ful /'lɔːfəl/ *adj fml* **1** allowed by law: *I was going about my lawful business.* **2** admitted by law to be the stated thing: *a lawful marriage* —see LEGAL (USAGE) — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

law-less /'lɔːləs/ *adj* **1** (of a country or place) not governed by laws: *lawless frontier towns* **2** uncontrolled; wild: *lawless frontiersmen* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

Law Lords /'lɔːləʊd/ [the+P] those members of the House of Lords who hold, or have held, high positions in the legal profession; members of the highest court in the English system

law-mak-er /'lɔːmeɪkə/ *n* [often pl.] AmE any elected official who is responsible for making laws: *lawmakers in Washington* | *county lawmakers*

law-man /'lɔːmæn/ *n* -men /men/ AmE any professional officer whose job is to make sure that the law is obeyed, esp. a SHERIFF: *He's one of the finest lawmen I've ever met.*

lawn /lɔːn/ *n* a stretch of usu. flat ground, esp. next to a house, covered with closely cut grass: *Let's have tea on the lawn.* | *The grass is getting too long, we must mow the lawn.* —see picture at HOUSE

lawn bowl-ing /'lɔːnbəʊlɪŋ/ *n* [U] AmE for BOWLS

lawn-mow-er /'lɔːnməʊə/ *n* a machine which can be pushed or driven along the ground to cut grass, esp. in gardens —see picture at GARDEN

lawn par-ty /'lɔːnpɑːti/ *n* AmE for GARDEN PARTY

lawn ten-nis /'lɔːntennis/ *n* [U] *fml* or *tech* for TENNIS

law of the jun-gle /'lɔːdʒl/ [the] the principle that only the strongest will succeed in life and that people should help themselves rather than others

Law-rence /'lɔːrəns/ 'lɔː-, 'lɑː-, D. H. (1885–1930) an English writer famous esp. for his stories of life in industrial society in which his characters show great strength of emotion, particularly love, and strong sexual desires. His best known books are *Sons and Lovers* and *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Several of his books were considered OBSCENE when they were written, esp. *Lady Chatterley's*

Lover which was banned (BAN) and not available until 1960.

Lawrence, T. E.S (1888–1935) a British soldier and writer, also known as **Lawrence of Arabia**, who helped the Arabs in their fight against the Turks (1914–18) and was strongly in favour of Arab independence. He wrote *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* about his desert adventures.

law school /'lɔːskʊl/ *n* [C;U] AmE a school of higher education where one studies to become a lawyer, having already earned a BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Law So-ci-e-ty /'lɔːsɪəti/ [the] the professional body in England and Wales dealing with the behaviour, education, and interests of SOLICITORS

Law-son /'lɔːsən/, **Ni-gel** /'naɪdʒəl/ (1932–) a British politician who was Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer (=British finance minister) from 1983 to 1989

law-suit /'lɔːsaɪt, -sjuːt/ also **suit** — *n* a matter brought to a court of law for decision by a private person or company, not by the police or the state: *The victims have started a lawsuit to get compensation for their injuries.*

law-yer /'lɔːjə/ *n* a person whose business is to advise people about laws, write formal agreements, or to represent people in court: *I suggest you consult a lawyer.* —see also ADVOCATE, ATTORNEY, BARRISTER, SOLICITOR

► **CULTURAL NOTE Lawyer** is the general word for someone whose business is the law. In England and Wales there are two kinds of lawyer who have different training and perform different jobs. A **solicitor** advises people on legal matters such as contracts, wills, and the buying and selling of property. Solicitors may represent a person in a MAGISTRATE'S COURT, but have only been able to do so in a higher court since 1992. A **barrister** may represent a person in any court, but usu. only does so in the higher courts. A person's solicitor advises the barrister about the facts of the case, but does not tell the barrister what to say. In the US, a lawyer may also be called an **attorney**, and there are no differences between the two. A lawyer who represents someone during a trial is sometimes called a **counselor**. ◀

lax /læks/ *adj* **1** not paying enough attention to what is needed or lacking in control, esp. of oneself or others: *That teacher's too lax with his class; no wonder they're so undisciplined.* | *lax morals* | *Lax security allowed the thieves to enter.* **2** *med* (of bowels) emptying too easily — *~ly adv* — *~ity, ~ness n* [U]

LAX /'el eɪ 'eks/ Los Angeles International Airport; the main airport serving the area around Los Angeles, California

lax-a-tive /'læksətɪv/ *n, adj* (a medicine or something eaten for) causing the bowels to empty easily

lay¹ /leɪ/ *v past tense of LIE*¹

lay² *v laid* /leɪd/ **1** [T+obj+adv/prep] to put, esp. carefully, in a flat position; place: *They laid the injured woman (down) on the grass.* | *He laid his coat over a chair.* **2** [T] to set in proper order or position: *He planned to build his own house, and was learning to lay bricks.* | *We're having a new carpet laid in the bedroom.* **3** [T] to prepare; make ready: *to lay plans* | *to lay a trap* | (BrE) *She laid the table.* (=covered it with a cloth, knives, forks, etc., ready for a meal) **4** [T] to cause to settle, disappear, or no longer be active: *The rain quickly laid the dust.* | *to lay a ghost* **5** [I;T] (of a bird, insect, etc.) to produce (an egg or eggs): *Last week they laid 30 eggs, but this week the hens aren't laying.* **6** [T (on)] to risk (money) on the result of some happening, such as a race; BET²: *She laid £5 on the favourite.* **7** [T+obj+adv/prep] to put into a particular condition, esp. of weakness, helplessness, obedience, etc.: *The country was laid in ruins.* **8** [T+obj+adv/prep] to make (a statement, claim, charge, etc.) in a serious, official, or public way: *Your employer has laid a serious charge against you.* | *The proposal was laid before the committee.* | *He laid the blame squarely on the police.* **9** [T] *taboo sl* to have sex with: *He's been trying to lay her for ages.* | *He only goes to parties to get laid.* —see also LAY⁴ (1) **10** *lay someone/something flat* to knock down to the ground **11** *lay someone low*: a to make someone unable to perform their usual activities because of illness: *I've been laid low with flu for a week.* **b** *esp. fml or lit* to knock or bring someone down, esp. so as to wound them or make them helpless **12** *lay something on the line*: a to state (a fact, one's intentions, etc.) forcefully; make clear **b** to risk: *He laid his life on the line for his country.* **13** *lay waste* to make (a place) bare, esp.

by violence; destroy, as in war **14 lay someone/oneself open to** to put someone/oneself into the position of receiving (blame, attack, etc.): *If you don't get the facts right, you'll lay yourself open to criticism/to ridicule* —see also **lay one's cards on the table** (CARDS), **lay a finger on** (FINGER¹)

▷ **USAGE** Do not confuse **lay** [T] (**laid, laid**) with **lie** [I] (**lay, lain**): *He laid his trousers on the bed.* | *He lay on the bed.* A third verb **lie** [I] (**lied, lied**) means "to tell a lie". ◀

lay about sbdy. *phr v* [T] *BrE* **1** to attack wildly: *He laid about his attackers with a club.* **2 lay about one** old use to hit wildly in all directions: *She laid about her until her assailants ran off.*

lay sthg. ↔ aside *phr v* [T] **1** to store for future use: *She'd managed to lay aside a few pounds out of her wages each week.* **2** to stop using, doing, or preparing for a time: *We've had to lay aside our plans for expansion.*

lay sthg. ↔ away *phr v* [T] *AmE* to buy something, with the seller agreeing to hold it for a small amount of money and deliver it when the full amount is paid: *Only \$10 will lay away a new electric blanket for those cold winter nights!* —see also **LAYAWAY**

lay sthg. ↔ down *phr v* [T] **1** to put down (tools, weapons, etc.) as a sign that one will not use them: *Lay down your guns and come out with your hands up!* **2** [(for)] to lose or stop having willingly in order to help others: *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend.* (the Bible) **3** to start the building or making of: *The foundations of the building were laid down in 1959.* **4** [often pass.] to declare or state firmly or officially: [+that] *It's laid down in the regulations/The regulations lay down that members must always sign guests in.* **5** to store (esp. wine) for future use **6 lay down the law** to give an opinion or order in an unpleasant commanding manner

lay sthg. ↔ in *phr v* [T] to obtain and store (a supply of): *We laid in (a good supply of) candles in case there was a power cut.*

lay into sbdy. *phr v* [T] to attack physically or with words: *The boxer really laid into his opponent.* | (fig.) *You should have seen her laying into that cake!*

lay off *phr v* **1** [T] (**lay** sbdy. ↔ **off**) to stop employing (a worker), esp. for a period in which there is little work: *During the recession they laid us off for three months.* —see also **LAY-OFF** **2** [I;T (=lay off sthg.)] *infml* to stop (doing, having, using, etc.): *You'd better lay off (alcohol) for a while.* [+v-ing] *Lay off hitting me!*

lay on *phr v* [T] **1** *esp. BrE* (**lay** sthg. ↔ **on**) to supply or provide, esp. generously: *The organizers laid on a huge meal for us.* | *They've laid on a car to meet us at the airport.* **2** (**lay** sthg. **on** sbdy.) to cause to have (a serious responsibility) on: *That's rather a lot to lay on one person.* **3 lay it on (a bit thick/with a trowel)** *infml* **a** to tell something in a way that goes beyond the truth **b** to praise or admire something too greatly, esp. in order to please

lay sthg. ↔ open *phr v* **1** to uncover or make known **2** to cut; wound: *The blow laid his head open.*

lay sbdy./sthg. out *phr v* [T] **1** to spread out: *She laid out the map on the table.* **2** to arrange or plan (a building, town, garden, etc.): *The garden is laid out in a formal pattern.* —see also **LAYOUT** **3** to arrange (a dead body) in preparation for burial **4** to knock (a person) down, esp. making them unconscious: *I laid him out with a blow to the head.* **5** [(on, for)] *infml* to spend (money, esp. a large amount): *She laid out £600 on a new carpet.* —see also **OUTLAY**

lay over *phr v* [I] *AmE* for **STOP OVER**

lay to *phr v* [I;T (=lay sthg. to)] to stop or cause (a ship) to stop moving —compare **LAY UP** (3), **LIE TO**

lay sbdy./sthg. ↔ up *phr v* [T] **1** to collect and store for future use: *to lay up food for the winter* | (fig.) *to lay up problems for the future* **2** to keep indoors or in bed with an illness: *I've been laid up for a week with my bad back.* **3** to stop using (a boat) for a time, esp. so that it can be repaired —compare **LAY TO**

lay³ *adj* [A] **1** a of, done by, or being people who are not in official positions within a religion: *a lay preacher* **b** not holding an official position in an organization: *lay members of the union* **2** not trained in or having knowledge of a particular profession or subject, such as law or medicine: *To the lay mind, these technical terms are incomprehensible.* —see also **LAITY**, **LAYMAN**

lay⁴ *n* **1** *taboo sl* (someone, esp. a woman, considered for their part in) the sexual act: *She's a great lay!* **2 lay of the land** *esp. AmE* for **lie of the land** (LIE²)

lay⁵ *n* **1** a short poem that tells a story and is meant to be sung, esp. one written in former times **2 poet** a song

lay-a-bout /'leɪəbaʊt/ *n BrE infml* a lazy person who avoids work, responsibility, etc.

lay-a-way /'leɪəweɪ/ *n, adj* [U] *AmE* a method of buying in which goods are held by the seller for a small amount of money until the full price is paid: *a layaway plan* | *stove bought on layaway*

lay brother /,leɪˈbrʌðə/ *lay sis-ter fem.* — *n* someone who belongs to but is not a full priestly member of a religious group, and who is employed mostly in general work in the kitchen or garden of a religious house

lay-by /ˈleɪˌbaɪ/ *n -bys BrE* a space next to a road where vehicles can park out of the way of traffic

layer¹ /'leɪər/ *n* **1** [(of)] a thickness of some substance, often one of many: *These seeds must be covered with a layer of earth.* | *There's a thin layer of coal between the two layers of rock.* | *She's wearing several layers of clothing to keep out the cold.* | (fig.) *trying to penetrate the layers of bureaucracy* **2** (usu. in comb.) a person or thing that lays something: *a carpet layer* —see also **BRICKLAYER**, **PLATELAYER** **3** a bird, esp. a hen, that lays eggs: *a good layer* **4 tech** a plant stem that has been fastened partly under the ground, in order to grow roots and so become a separate plant **5 -layered** /leɪəd||-ərd/ having the stated number of thicknesses: *many-layered*

layer² *v* **1** [T] to make a layer of; put down in layers: *This dish is made of potatoes layered with cheese.* **2** [T] to cut (hair) in layers rather than all to the same length **3** [T] *tech* to fasten (a plant stem) down and cover it with earth **4 tech** [I] (of a plant) to form roots where a stem meets the soil

lay-ette /leɪˈet/ *n* a complete set of clothes and other things needed for a newborn baby

lay figure /,leɪˈfɪɡʊr/ *n* a figure of the human body, usu. wooden, with movable limbs, used as a model when painting or drawing

laying on of hands /,leɪɪŋ ɒn ɒv ˈhændz/ *n* [(the)] the act of putting hands on a person's (or animal's) body to cure illness, esp. with help from God. It is practised mostly by **EVANGELICAL** and **FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIANS**. —see also **speak in tongues** (SPEAK)

lay-man /'leɪmən/ also **layperson**, **laywoman fem.** — *n* **-men** /mən/ **1** a person who is not trained in a particular subject or type of work, esp. as compared with those who are: *These technical terms are difficult for the layman to understand.* | *the gross domestic product, or, in layman's language/terms, the amount of goods produced by a country* **2** a person who is not a priest in a religion

lay-off /ˈleɪ.ɒf/ *n* the stopping of a worker's employment at a time when there is little work: *There have been a lot of lay-offs in the shipbuilding industry recently.* —see also **LAY OFF**

lay-out /'leɪaʊt/ *n* **1** the way in which something large with many parts is arranged, such as a town, garden, building, etc., esp. as shown in a drawing: *In the new lay-out for the conference hall, the platform is to be placed at the western end.* | *The robbers studied the layout of the bank.* **2** the way in which printed matter is set out on paper: *The book designer will have to re-do the page lay-outs.* —see also **LAY OUT**

lay-o-ver /'leɪəʊvə/ *n AmE* **STOPOVER**: *I've got a two-hour layover in Pittsburgh before flying on to Chicago.* —see also **LAY OVER**

lay-per-son /'leɪ,pɜːsən||-3ɪr-/ *n* a **LAYMAN** OR **LAYWOMAN**

lay read-er /ˈleɪˌrɛdər/ *n* in certain Christian churches, a person who is not a priest but who may lead religious services and **PREACH** (=give the message of God)

lay sis-ter /,leɪˈsɪstə/ *n* see **LAY BROTHER**

lay-up /ˈleɪ.ʊp/ *n* (in **BASKETBALL**) a throw at the basket which takes place near the basket: *Bird drops a lay-up into the net.*

lay-wom-an /'leɪ,wʊmən/ *n -women* /,wɪmɪn/ see **LAYMAN**

Laz-a-rus /'læzərəs/ a friend of Jesus' whose story is told in the Bible. When he died, Jesus brought him back to life.

laze¹ /leɪz/ *v* [I+adv/prep] to rest lazily: *He spent the afternoon lazing in a hammock.*

laze about/around *phr v* [I] to waste time enjoyably, with little effort: *That's enough lazing around – it's time to start work.*

laze sthg. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] to spend (time) lazily: *She lazed away the afternoon in a deckchair by the pond.*

laze² *n* [S] a short period of restful and lazy inactivity

la-zy /'leɪzi/ *adj* **1** *derog* disliking and avoiding activity or work: *He won't work; he's just too lazy!* **2** (esp. of a period of time) suitable for doing nothing, or spent in doing nothing: *a lazy afternoon* **3** moving slowly: *a lazy river* — **zily** *adv* — **ziness** *n* [U]

la-zy-bones /'leɪzɪbəʊnz/ *n* **lazybones** *infml* a lazy person: *Come on, lazybones; it's time to get up!*

lazy Su-san /,leɪzi 'su:zən/ *n* a flat piece of plastic or wood which can be turned round and made to hold several dishes etc. on a dinner table so that everyone can reach what they want

lb *written abbrev. for:* pound (weight)

lbw /,el bi: 'dʌbəlju:/ *abbrev. for:* leg before wicket (LEG¹)

LBJ /,el bi: 'dʒeɪ/ see Lyndon Baines JOHNSON

LCD /,el si: 'di:/ *n* liquid crystal display; part of an APPARATUS on which numbers, letters, etc. are shown by passing an electric current through a special liquid, so that they light up: *The time on my digital watch is shown on an LCD.* — compare LED

LCM /,el si: 'em/ *written abbrev. for:* LOWEST COMMON MULTIPLE

L-driver /'lɪː, -r/ *n* *BrE* a person who is learning to drive

LDS *written abbrev. for:* Latter-Day Saints — see MORMON

lea /li:/ *n* *poet* an open piece of grassy land

LEA /,el i: 'eɪ/ *abbrev. for:* LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Lea and Per-rins /,li: ənd 'perɪnz/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a company in Britain which makes Worcestershire SAUCE. The sauce is made to a secret RECIPE which includes VINEGAR, SPICES, and anchovies (ANCHOVY) and is used to add FLAVOUR to food.

leach /li:tʃ/ *v* [OUT, AWAY, from] *tech* **1** [T] to separate (a substance) from a material, such as soil, by passing water through the material: *Alkali is leached out from ashes.* **2** [I] (of certain substances in a material) to be removed by water passing through the material: *All the minerals essential for plant growth gradually leached away.*

lead¹ /li:d/ *v* **led** /led/ **1** [T+obj+adv/prep, esp. to] to go with or in front of (a person or animal) so as to take them to a place or show them the way: *She led the blind man down the stairs.* | *The horses were led into the yard.* | (fig.) *The distant lights led me to the village.* | (fig.) *A single vital clue led the police to the murderer.* | (fig.) *The girl's father blamed her boyfriend for leading her astray.* (=causing her to behave wrongly) **2** [I (ON);T] to go in front (of), esp. so as to show the way: *You lead (on) and we'll follow.* | *The royal car led the procession.* **3** [I+adv/prep] to be the means of reaching a place, going through an area, etc.: *A path led through the wood.* | *This road leads to the village.* | (fig.) *Her careless spending led her into debt.* **4** [T+obj+to-v] to cause, esp. wrongly: *She led me to believe that she had a lot of influence.* (=but in fact she did not have such influence) **5** [I;T] to be in charge of (esp. a group): *Has she got the qualities necessary to lead?* | *A general leads an army.* | *He's been chosen to lead the cricket team.* **6** [I;T] to be ahead (of) in sports or games: *The English team was leading (France) 1-0 at half time.* | (fig.) *Japan leads the field* (=is ahead of all other countries) *in electronics production.* **7** [T] to live (a particular kind of life): *He led an exciting life.* **8** [I (with)] to make one's main attacking hits in BOXING: *He led with his left.* (=left hand) **9** [I;T (with)] to start or open a game of cards (with): *She led (with) her highest card.* **10** **lead someone a (merry) dance** *BrE infml* to cause someone a lot of unnecessary trouble, such as making them follow you about from place to place without any advantage to themselves **11** **lead someone by the nose** *infml* to have complete control over someone **12** **lead someone up the garden path** *infml* to cause someone to believe something that is not true; deceive someone **13** **lead the life of Riley** *BrE sl* to live in complete comfort, enjoyment, etc.

▷ **USAGE** To **lead** is to show the way by going first: *You*

lead and we'll follow. | *She led them down the mountain.* To **guide** is to go with someone (who needs help) in order to show the way and explain things: *He guided the blind woman across the road.* | *He guided the tourists round the castle.* To **direct** is to explain to someone how to get to a place: *Could you direct me to the station, please?* <

lead (sthg. ↔) **off** *phr v* [I;T (with)] **1** to make a start (to); begin: *She led off (the show) with a song.* **2** *AmE* to BAT² first in an INNING in BASEBALL: *Sandberg will lead off for the Cubs.*

lead sbdy. **on** *phr v* [T] **1** to cause to believe something that is not true: *She has no sense of humour, so she couldn't see he was leading her on.* | *He thought it was love but she was only leading him on.* **2** to influence (someone) into doing something they should not do: *My little Tommy would never have got into trouble with the police if those friends of his hadn't led him on.*

lead to sthg. *phr v* [T no pass.] to result in: *This will lead to trouble in the future.* [+obj+v-ing] *The scandal led to him resigning.*

lead up to sthg. *phr v* [T] to come before and result in or be a preparation for: *His flattering words led up to a request for money.* | *the events leading up to his arrest*

lead² /li:d/ *n* **1** [C] a guiding suggestion or example: *We're waiting for the conductor to give us a lead.* | *I'll follow your lead.* **2** [the] the position ahead of all others: *The English team was in the lead* (=winning the game) *at half time.* | *He's playing the lead* (=the most important acting part) *in the new play.* | *Japan has taken the lead in car production.* (=is now producing more than any other country) | *It's up to someone to take the lead in condemning these injustices.* (=to do so first, and set a good example to others) **3** [S (over)] the distance, number of points, etc., by which one competitor is ahead of another: *England had a lead of ten points to three at half time.* | *Japan will soon have/take an unassailable lead over other car-producing countries.* **4** [C] *BrE* || **leash** *AmE* or *BrE fml*— a length of rope, leather, chain, etc., fastened to an animal, usu. a dog, to control it: *a dog on a lead* **5** [C] an electric wire for taking the power from the supply point to an instrument or apparatus **6** [C] a piece of information that may lead to a discovery or to something being settled; CLUE: *The police have several useful leads.* **7** [(the) S] the right to play the first card in a game: *It's your lead, partner.*

lead³ /li:d/ *adj* [A] being most important or a leader: *a lead part in a play* | *a lead singer in a pop group*

lead⁴ /led/ *n* **1** [U] a soft heavy easily melted greyish-blue metal, used for waterpipes, to cover roofs, etc.: *lead piping* **2** [C;U] (a thin stick of) GRAPHITE (=a black substance) used in pencils: *I need a pencil with a soft lead.* **3** **go down like a lead balloon** (of a joke, remark, etc.) to be received very badly: *His comment on her hairstyle really went down like a lead balloon.* **4** [U] *AmE sl* bullets: *They filled him full of lead* (=they shot him many times). —see also LEADS, BLACK LEAD, WHITE LEAD, **swing the lead** (SWING¹)

lead-ed lights /,ledɪd 'laɪts/ also **leaded win-dows** /,liː 'wɪndəʊz/ *n* [P] *esp. BrE* windows with thin narrow pieces of LEAD⁴ (1) separating small PANES of glass. The glass is often in a diamond pattern and is thought to look old-fashioned and attractive.

leaded pet-rol /,ledɪd 'petrəl/ *BrE* || **leaded gas-o-line** /,liː 'gæsəʊlɪn/ *AmE*— *n* [U] petrol containing lead, generally considered to be harmful to the environment —opposite **lead-free** or **unleaded petrol**

lead-en /'ledn/ *adj* **1** of the colour of lead; dull grey: *a leaden sky* **2** without cheerfulness or excitement: *With a leaden heart she opened the income-tax envelope.* | *a rather leaden performance*

lead-er /'li:də/ *n* **1** [(of)] a person who guides or directs a group, team, organization, etc.: *the leader of the miners' union* | *He's always been a follower rather than a leader.* | *a born leader* **2** [(of, in)] a person or thing that is ahead of others: *Liverpool are the current leaders in the football championship.* | *The leader (of) in the race is just coming into view.* **3** *BrE* || **concertmaster** *AmE*— the chief VIOLIN player of an ORCHESTRA **4** *AmE* for CONDUCTOR (1) **5** *BrE* for EDITORIAL²: *the "Times" leader writers* **6** *tech* the strongest stem or branch of a tree —see also LOSS LEADER

Leader of the House /,liː . . . 'həʊs/ also **Leader**— **1** the

member of the government who arranges the business in the HOUSE OF COMMONS **2** the member of the government who arranges the business in the HOUSE OF LORDS

Leader of the Op-po-si-tion /lɪˈɒpəʊzɪʃən/ [the] the leader of the main party opposing the government in the British parliament

lead-er-ship /ˈliːdəʃɪp/ -ər- / *n* **1** [U (of)] the position of leader: *He was elected to the leadership of the Labour party.* | *Britain has lost her leadership in the shipbuilding industry.* **2** [U] the qualities necessary in a leader: *She lacks leadership.* **3** [C+sing./pl. v] a group of people who lead: *The leadership of the movement is/are in agreement on this issue.*

lead-free pet-rol /ˌled friː ˈpetrəl/ *BrE* || **lead-free gas-o-line** /ˌled friː ˈɡæs oʊ laɪn/ *AmE* — *n* [U] PETROL containing no lead

lead-in /ˈliːd ɪn/ *n* remarks made by someone to introduce a radio or television show

lead-ing ¹ /ˈliːdɪŋ/ *adj* [A] most important; chief; main: *He was one of the leading composers of his time.* | *a leading role in the film*

lead-ing ² /ˈledɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** lead used for covering roofs, for window frames, etc. **2** the space left between lines of printed matter: *9 point type on a 10 point leading*

leading ar-ti-cle /ˌliːdɪŋ ˈɑːtɪkəl/ -'ɑːr- / *n* *BrE* for EDITORIAL ²

leading edge /ˌliːdɪŋ ˈedʒ/ *n* **1** the front edge of an aircraft PROPELLER blade or wing **2** the edge of a sail that faces the wind

leading la-dy /ˌliːdɪŋ ˈleɪdi/ **leading man** /ˌliːdɪŋ ˈmæn/ -'mæ- / *n* the person who acts the leading female or male part in a film, play, etc.

leading light /ˌliːdɪŋ ˈlaɪt/ *n* [(in, of)] *infml* a person of importance or influence: *Bill is one of the leading lights of the local dramatic society.*

leading ques-tion /ˌliːdɪŋ ˈkwɛstʃən/ *n* a question formed in such a way that it suggests the expected answer. In a court of law, LAWYERS are not allowed to ask leading questions.

lead-off /ˈliːd ɒf/ -ɔːf/ *adj* *AmE* coming or going first, before others: *the lead-off pitcher for The Twins* | *The lead-off title in a new series of How-To books* — see also LEAD OFF

leads /ledz/ *n* [P] **1** sheets of lead used for covering a roof **2** narrow pieces of lead used for holding small pieces of glass together to form a LATTICE window

lead time /ˈliːd taɪm/ *n* the time taken in planning and producing a new product, before it is actually ready for sale

leaf ¹ /liːf/ *n* **leaves** /liːvz/ **1** [C] any of the usu. flat green parts of a plant that are joined to its stems or branches: *autumn leaves* | *The trees are in/are coming into leaf.* **2** [C] a thin sheet of paper, esp. a page in a book — see also LOOSE-LEAF, OVERLEAF **3** [U] metal, esp. gold or silver, in a very thin sheet: *gold leaf* **4** [C] part of a tabletop, door, etc., that can be slid, folded, or taken into or out of use: *Pull out both leaves of the table.* **5** **take a leaf out of someone's book** to follow someone's example **6** **turn over a new leaf** to begin a new course of improved behaviour, habits, etc.: *I've decided to turn over a new leaf and do lots of exercise from now on.* **7** **-leaved** /liːvd/ also **-leafed** /liːft/ — having leaves of the stated type or number: *a narrow-leaved plant*

leaf ² *v*

leaf through *sthg. phr v* [T] to turn the pages of (a book, magazine, etc.) quickly without reading much: *I was leafing through an old school magazine when I came across your photo.*

leaf-let ¹ /ˈliːflət/ *n* a small, often folded piece of printed paper, often advertising something, usu. given free to the public

leaflet ² *v* -t *BrE* || -tt *esp. AmE* — [I;T] *esp. BrE* to give out or post leaflets in (a certain area), esp. as part of political activity: *He's been out leafleting (the housing estate).*

leaf mould /ˈliːf ɔʊld/ *n* [U] dead decaying leaves which form a rich top surface to soil

leaf-y /ˈliːfi/ *adj* **1** having many leaves: *a very leafy bush* **2** *esp. lit* having many trees: *the leafy suburbs of London*

league ¹ /liːg/ *n* **1** a group of sports clubs or players that play matches among themselves: *the Football League* |

a darts league | *a league match* | *league football* — compare CONFERENCE (2); see also FOOTBALL LEAGUE **2** a group of people, countries, etc., who have joined together to protect or improve their position, or to bring about a particular result **3** *infml* a level of quality; class: *They're not in the same league as the French at making wine.* | *You'll find you're out of your league if you challenge him to a game — he's the chess club champion.* **4** **in league (with)** working together (with), often secretly or for a bad purpose: *The police suspected that the bank clerk was in league with the robbers.*

league ² *v* [I;T (TOGETHER)] rare to unite in or join a LEAGUE ¹ (2)

league ³ *n* old use a measure of distance of about three miles or five kilometres

League a-against Cru-el Sports /ˌliːg ə ˈæɡəɪnst kruːəl spɔːts/ [the] (in Britain) an organization established in 1924 which wants to make BLOOD SPORTS (= hunting, shooting, etc. of animals for sport) illegal — see also HUNT SABOTEUR

League of Na-tions /ˌliːg əv ˈneɪʃnz/ [the] (1920–46) an international organization established to work for international peace and safety after the First World War. It served as a model for the existing United Nations.

League of Wom-en Vot-ers /ˌliːg əv ˈwɒmən vɒtəz/ [the] an American organization that encourages women to vote and calls attention to political matters that might have an affect on their lives

league ta-ble /ˌliːg ˈteɪbl/ *n* (in Britain) a list of people or teams in a competition, showing their relative positions: *Liverpool have now reached top of the league table.*

leak ¹ /liːk/ *v* **1** [I;T] to let (a liquid, gas, etc.) in or out of a hole or crack: *The tank is leaking (petrol).* **2** [I (OUT, IN)] (of a liquid, gas, etc.) to get out through a hole or crack: *Oil was leaking out of a hole in the tank.* | *water leaking in through a hole in the roof* **3** [T (OUT, to)] to make known (news, facts, etc., that ought to be secret): *Someone in the ministry had leaked the story to the press.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** As there is no Freedom of Information Act (= allowing the public knowledge of government business) in Britain, important information is often leaked by officials who think the public ought to know but do not want or are not allowed to tell them officially. ◀

leak out *phr v* [I] (of news, facts, etc., that ought to be secret) to become known: *It has leaked out that they intend to increase the arms budget.*

leak ² *n* **1** [C] a small accidental hole or crack through which something flows in or out: *You'd better repair that leak in the fuel pipe.* **2** [C] an escape of liquid, gas, etc., through such a hole: *a gas leak* | *a leak of nuclear waste* **3** [C] an accidental or intentional spreading of news, facts, etc., that ought to be secret: *a security leak* **4** [S] *sl* an act of passing water from the body: *I'm just going to take/have a leak.* (=to URINATE)

leak-age /ˈliːkɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C;U] an example of something leaking: *The short circuit was due to (a) leakage of water.* **2** [C] something which has leaked in or out: *He wiped up the leakage.*

Lea-key /ˈliːki/, **Lou-is** /ˈluːi/ (1903–72) a British archaeologist (ARCHAEOLOGY) who discovered human FOSSILS (hardened bones) in Tanzania which he believed were important in discovering the development of man through EVOLUTION. His wife **Mary Leakey** (1913–) and his son **Richard Leakey** (1944–) are also archaeologists.

leak-y /ˈliːki/ *adj* letting things leak in or out: *a leaky bucket* | *a leaky committee, whose supposedly secret meetings were accurately reported in the press* — **-iness** *n* [U]

lean ¹ /liːn/ *v* **leant** /lent/ or **leaned** **1** [I] to slope or bend from an upright position: *The trees leant in the wind.* | *the leaning tower of Pisa* | *He leant forward/down/over to hear what she said.* **2** [I+adv/prep] to support or rest oneself in a bent or sloping position: *She leant against his shoulder.* | *He leant on the back of the chair.* **3** [T+obj+adv/prep] to place so as to be supported from the side in a sloping position: *Lean it (up) against the wall.* — see also **lean over backwards** (BACKWARDS) — **lean** *n* [S (of)] : *a lean of 20°*

► **USAGE** **Leaned** and **leant** are both used in British English, but **leaned** is the main form in American English. ◀

lean on *sbdy./sthg. phr v* [T] **1** also **lean upon** — to

need the help of; depend on: *The minister leans on his advisers (for support).* **2** *infml* to influence forcefully, often by threats: *I'm being leant on to pay up straightaway.*

lean towards sthg. *phr v* [T] to favour (an opinion, idea, etc.): *My wife intends to vote for the Democrats, but I find myself leaning towards the Republicans.*

lean² adj **1** (of meat) not having much fat. It is generally considered to be healthier to eat lean meat than fatty meat and it is often eaten by people trying to lose weight or people interested in eating healthy foods. **2** (of a person, esp. a man, or an animal) not having much flesh; healthily thin: *He had the lean fit look of a trained athlete.* | (fig.) *With our cuts in staff our company is leaner and more profitable.* **3** producing or having little value: *It's been a lean year for business.* —see THIN (USAGE) **4** a lean and hungry look *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*. Cassius, one of the men planning to kill Caesar, is described as having "a lean and hungry look" because he looks as if he is planning to do harm to someone. — ~ness *n* [U]

lean³ n [the U] the part of meat that is not fat

Lean, David (1908–91) an English film director known for films such as *Brief Encounter*, *Bridge on the River Kwai*, *Dr Zhivago*, and *A Passage to India*

Lean Cui-sine /ˌlɪːnˈsɪn/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a range of prepared foods which contain very little fat, often eaten by people looking after their health or trying to lose weight

lean-ing /ˈliːnɪŋ/ *n* [(towards)] a slight tendency to favour one thing rather than another: *At an early age his leaning towards Socialism had become apparent.* | *She has artistic leanings.* (=thinks she may like to become an ARTIST)

Leaning Tow-er of Pi-sa /ˌliːnɪŋ ˈtaʊər əv ˈpiːzə/ [the] a round bell tower in Pisa, Italy which leans to one side. It is a popular tourist attraction but is now in danger of falling down completely.

lean-to /ˌlɪːnˈtəʊ/ *n* a small often roughly made building that rests against the side of a larger building or structure

leap¹ /liːp/ *v* **leapt** /lept/ or **leaped** /lept/ [liːpt/ **1** [I+adv/prep] to jump, usu. so as to land in a different place: *The horse leapt across the chasm.* | *She leapt into the boat and grabbed the oars.* **2** [T] esp. *lit* to jump over: *He leapt the wall and ran away.* **3** [I+adv/prep] to act, move, rise, etc., quickly, as if with a jump: *He leapt up* (=suddenly stood up) *to complain.* | *She leapt to his assistance.* | *He leapt to their defence.* (=was quick to defend them)

▷ USAGE **Leapt** is more common in British English than **leaped** but **leaped** is more common in American English. ◀

leap at sthg. *phr v* [T] to accept (a chance, offer, etc.) eagerly: *She leapt at the chance of a trip to Europe.*

leap out *phr v* [I (at)] to be very clearly noticeable: *His name leapt out at me from the newspaper.*

leap² n **1** a sudden jump: *She got over the stream with a single leap.* | (fig.) *It takes a considerable leap of the imagination to picture him as prime minister.* **2** [(in)] a sudden increase in number, amount, quantity, etc.: *There has been a leap in the number of births in Britain.* **3** by leaps and bounds very quickly and successfully: *Her French is improving by leaps and bounds.* **4** leap in the dark an action or risk taken without knowing what will happen as a result

leap-frog¹ /ˌliːpfrog/ -froːg, -fraːg/ *n* [U] a game in which one person bends down and another jumps over them from behind

leapfrog² v -gg- [I (over); T] to advance well by missing out (something) on the way: *He leapfrogged two ranks and was promoted directly to colonel.*

leap year /ˌlɪːpˈjɪər/ *n* [C; U] a year, every fourth year, in which February has 29 days instead of 28 days. Usually it is the custom in Britain for a man to ask a woman to marry him, but in a leap year, and esp. on February 29th, it is the custom that a woman can ask a man to marry her.

Lear, King see KING LEAR

Lear, Edward (1812–88) an English artist, traveller, and nonsense poet best known for his *Book of Nonsense*

Lear, Norman (1928–) an American maker of television programmes who began many popular programmes, esp. in the 1970s, including *All the Family* and *Maude*. Lear

is also known for running a political organization concerned with CIVIL RIGHTS

learn /lɜːn/ [lɜːrn/ *v* **learned** or **learnt** /lɜːnt/ [lɜːrni/ **1** [I; T (about)] to gain knowledge of (a subject) or skill in (an activity), esp. through experience or through being taught: *The child is learning quickly.* | *I'm trying to learn French.* [+to-v] *She is learning to be a dancer.* [+wh-] *He is learning how to play the drums.* | *We hope he'll learn from his mistakes.* (=become wiser as a result of them) —compare TEACH (1) **2** [T+(that); obj] to come to understand; REALIZE: *You must learn that you can't treat people like servants.* **3** [T] to fix in the memory; MEMORIZE: *The teacher told us to learn the poem (by heart).* | *an actor learning his lines* **4** [I (of, about); T] *fml* to become informed (of): *She only learnt of* (=found out about) *her son's marriage long after the event.* | *Where did you learn this news?* [+ (that)] *We were pleased to learn that he had arrived safely.* [+wh-] *We have yet to learn whether he arrived safely.* **5** [T] *BrE sl* humor to punish (someone) by shouting at them, hitting them, etc.: *That'll learn you to be cheeky!* **6** learn one's lesson to suffer so much from doing something bad that one will not do it again —see also live and learn (LIVE¹)

▷ USAGE For the simple past form and past participle, **learned** and **learnt** are both common in British English, but the usual American English form is **learned**. —see also KNOW (USAGE) ◀

learn-ed /ˌlɜːnɪd/ [ˌlɜːr-/ *adj fml or pomp* **1** having much knowledge as the result of study and reading: *We consulted the most learned professors.* **2** [A] of or for advanced study: *a publisher of learned works* — ~ly *adv*

learned so-ci-e-ty /ˌlɜːnɪd ˈsəʊiəti/ *n* a society where educated people discuss certain subjects involving study or reading

learn-er /ˌlɜːnər/ [ˌlɜːr-/ *n* a person who is learning, esp. a person (**learner driver** /ˌlɜːnər ˈdraɪvər/ (BrE)) who is learning to drive a car: *She's a rather slow learner.* (=is slow at learning)

learner's per-mit /ˌlɜːnər ˈpɜːmɪt/ *AmE* for PROVISIONAL LICENCE

learn-ing /ˌlɜːnɪŋ/ [ˌlɜːr-/ *n* [U] **1** deep and wide knowledge gained through reading and study: *a man of great learning* —compare KNOWLEDGE (1) **2** a little learning is a dangerous thing *quote* a phrase from a work by Alexander Pope, often used when saying that it is not helpful to know a small amount about a subject

learning curve /ˌlɜːnɪŋ ˈkɜːv/ *n* the rate at which someone learns something, e.g. a job, over a period of time

lease¹ /liːs/ *n* **1** a written legal agreement by which the use of a building or piece of land is given by its owner to someone for a certain time in return for rent: *She bought the house on a 99-year lease.* | *We've taken a lease on an office building.* | *The lease expires next month.*

▷ CULTURAL NOTE A lease can be made for a very long time, perhaps for hundreds of years. The person who has the right to live in or use the property can sell that right for the remaining years of the lease to someone else. When the lease ends it may be RENEWED (= a new agreement may be made). —see also COMMONHOLD, FREEHOLD, GROUND RENT, LEASEHOLD ◀

2 a new lease of life (BrE)/on life (AmE) the ability to be happy, active, and successful again, esp. after being weak or tired: *That long holiday has given me a new lease of life.*

lease² v [T (OUT)] **1** to give or take the use of (land or buildings) on a lease: *This company leases out property.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *We will lease you the house for a year.* | "Do you own the freehold of your house?" "No, I lease it." **2** *tech* to rent or hire (expensive machinery or equipment): *Leasing (these cars) is tax-deductible.* | *We lease all our computers these days.*

lease-back /ˌliːsbæk/ *n* [C; U] an arrangement by which one sells or gives something to someone, but then continues to have the use of it in return for rent

lease-hold /ˌliːshəʊld/ *adj, adv esp. BrE* (of land or buildings) owned only for as long as is stated in a lease: "Is your flat leasehold?" "Yes, we bought it leasehold." —compare COMMONHOLD, FREEHOLD; see also LEASE¹ (1)

▷ CULTURAL NOTE In England, Ireland, and Wales most flats are leasehold. Most houses and shops used to be leasehold, but many people have now bought their FREEHOLDS. In Scotland almost all property is freehold. ◀

leasehold-er /'li:ʃəʊldə/ *n* someone who lives in a leasehold house, flat, etc.

leash /li:ʃ/ *n* AmE or BrE fml for LEAD² (4): *Dogs must be kept on a leash.* | (fig.) *Let off the leash of government restrictions, the council increased its spending rapidly.*

least¹ /li:st/ *adv* (superlative of LITTLE) **1** less than anything else or than any others: *It happened just when we least expected it.* | *one of the least known of the modern poets* —opposite **most** **2 least of all** especially not: *No one listened, least of all the children!* **3 not least** fml partly; quite importantly: *Trade has been bad, not least because of the increased cost of imported raw materials.*

least² *determiner, pron* (superlative of LITTLE) **1** the smallest number, amount, etc.: *Buy the one that costs (the) least.* | *Finding enough money is the least of our problems!* | “Thank you very much.” “Not at all; it was **the least I could do.**” (=a polite reply to thanks) —opposite **most**; see FEW (USAGE) **2** [usu. in negatives] slightest: *I haven't the least idea where she is.* (=I don't know at all) **3 at least: a** (used for mentioning some small advantage in something, that makes its disadvantages seem not so bad): *The food wasn't good, but at least it was cheap.* **b** (used for lessening the force or certainty of something said): *He left last Tuesday — at least, I think he did.* **4 at (the) least** not less than: *It costs at least £5.* | *At the (very) least, it's going to cost £5.* —opposite **at (the) most** (MOST²) **5 in the least** [usu. in negatives] at all: *He's not in the least worried.* | “You must find such long hours very tiring.” “Not in the least — I enjoy it.” **6 to say the least (of it)** (used for describing something bad without using strong words, but showing that one really disapproves of it a lot): *It was rather thoughtless of him, to say the least.*

least common mul-ti-ple /, · , · · 'lɔ:st/ see LOWEST COMMON MULTIPLE

least-wise /'li:stwaɪz/ also **least-ways** /-weɪz/ — *adv* AmE infml at least: *He was there a minute ago, leastwise that's what Sue said.*

leath-er /'leðə/ *n* [U] **1** animal skin that has been treated to preserve it, used for making shoes, bags, etc.: *a leather coat* **2 the crack of leather on willow** BrE the sound made by a CRICKET ball (made of leather) hitting a BAT (made of wood from the WILLOW tree), often used as a way of referring to the game of cricket

leath-er-ette /'leðə'ret/ *n* [U] tdmk a cheap material made to look like leather: *a hideous leatherette sofa*

leath-er-neck /'leðənek || -ər-/ *n* AmE sl a member of the US Marine Corps

leath-er-y /'leðəri/ *adj* often derog like leather; hard and stiff: *leathery meat/skin*

leave¹ /li:v/ *v* **left** /left/ **1** [I (for); T] to go away (from): *We must leave (the party) early.* | *When shall we leave for (=in order to go to) the party?* | *We're leaving from the main station at six o'clock.* (=that is when our train journey starts) | *He wanted to go to the toilet, and asked if he could leave the room.* **2** [I; T] to stop being in or with (a place, organization, person, etc.): *I'm leaving England and going to live in Spain.* | *He left his wife three months ago.* | *We're giving him a party when he leaves.* (=stops working for our company, etc.) | *a leaving present* **3** [T (BEHIND)] to go without taking: *I must go back; I've left (=forgotten to bring) my car keys (behind).* | *We left the paperwork at the office.* **4** [T] to cause to be or remain in a particular state or position: *Let's leave the washing up (until tomorrow).* (=not do it until tomorrow) | *How were things left after the meeting?* (=what arrangements were settled) | *He left his car in the middle of the road.* | *Paying for the car repairs has left us without a penny.* [+obj+adj] *Will you leave the door open when you go out?* | *The president's sudden death has left the country leaderless.* [+obj+v-ing] *She left me waiting in the rain.* | *Her narrow escape left her feeling shaken.* **5** [T] to cause to remain afterwards as an effect: *The injury left a scar (on his face).* **6** [T] to allow (something) to be the responsibility of (someone) or to be decided by (something): [+obj+with] *He left the children with me while he went to get a paper.* [+obj+to] “Which film shall we go and see?” “I'll leave it to you.” (=you can choose) [+v-ing] *I'll leave buying the tickets to you.* [+obj+to-v] *I'll leave you to buy the tickets.* | *I'll leave it to you to buy the tickets.* **7** [T (OVER)] to allow to remain untaken, unused, unchanged, uneaten, etc.: *Don't leave your cabbage.* | *There were some*

chairs left over when everyone had sat down. **8** [T] to place or deliver (a letter, parcel, message, etc.): *The postman has left a letter for you.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *The postman has left you a letter.* | *If I'm out, leave a message with my secretary.* **9** [T] to have remaining after death: *He leaves a wife and two children.* | *He left his family well provided for.* **10** [T (to)] to give through a WILL² (5) after one's death: *She left £250,000.* | *She left all her property to her husband.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *She left her husband all her property.* **11** [L (+obj)+n] to give the stated result after taking one number away from another: *Two from eight leaves (you) six.* **12 leave go/hold of** BrE infml to stop holding: *Leave go of my hair!* **13 leave it at that** to do or say no more; not argue any further **14 leave someone/something alone** to stop behaving annoyingly in someone's presence or touching something: *Go away and leave me alone!* | *Leave that ornament alone; you might break it.* **15 leave someone/something be** to allow someone/something to remain untouched, unused, in proper position or order, etc.: “The baby's crying!” “Leave him be; he'll soon stop.” —compare **let someone/something be** (LET¹) **16 leave someone cold** to fail to excite or interest someone: *Frankly, opera leaves me cold.* **17 leave someone/something standing** BrE infml to be much better than someone/something: *This director's films leave the others standing.* **18 leave someone to themselves/to their own devices** to allow or force someone to act on their own, without offering them any help, telling them what to do, etc. **19 leave well (enough) alone** to make no change to something that is satisfactory, in case one makes things worse rather than better —**leaver** *n*: *school leavers*

leave off (sthg.) *phr v* [I; T] infml, rare in AmE to stop (doing something); give up: *I wish the rain would leave off.* | *She was so ill she had to leave off work.* [+v-ing] *Leave off making that noise! Can't you see I'm trying to work?*

leave sbdy./sthg. ↔ out *phr v* [T (of)] **1** to fail to include: *You've left out the most important word in this sentence.* | *England has left Smith out (of their cricket team).* | *Don't leave me out when you're giving out the invitations!* **2** to fail to accept or make welcome into a social group: *No one speaks to him; he's always left out/he always feels left out.* **3 Leave it out!** BrE sl Stop lying, pretending, or being annoying!

leave² *n* **1** [C; U] time spent away from work or duty, esp. in government or army service: *I'm in command of the regiment while the colonel's on leave.* **2** [U] fml permission: *It was done without leave from me/without my leave, I can assure you.* [+to-v] *Who gave you leave to do that?* **3 take leave (of)** to say goodbye (to); go away (from): (fig.) *She must have taken leave of her senses* (=gone mad) *to do such a stupid thing.* —see HOLIDAY¹ (USAGE); see also FRENCH LEAVE, SICK LEAVE

leav-en¹ /'levən/ *n* **1** [U] a substance, esp. YEAST, that is added to a flour-and-water mixture to make it swell so that it can be baked into bread **2** [C; U] fml rare an influence that causes a gradual change in character

leaven² *v* [T] **1** to add leaven to (a cooking mixture, esp. flour and water) —see also UNLEAVENED **2** fml rare to influence; change

leav-en-ing /'levənɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] LEAVEN(1) **2** [S (of)] a small part which makes something different, esp. more cheerful: *a leavening of humour in an otherwise serious book*

Leav-en-worth /'levənwɜ:θ||-wɜ:rθ/ a town in the American state of Kansas, known for its prison: *He's serving time at Leavenworth.*

leave of ab-sence /, · · 'lɔ:st/ *n* [U] LEAVE² (1)

leaves /li:vz/ *pl.* of LEAF

Leaves of Grass /, · · 'lɔ:st/ a collection of poems written in FREE VERSE by Walt Whitman, which are thought to include some of his best work. They are also considered important in the historical development of American poetry.

leave tak-ing /, · · 'lɔ:st/ *n* fml the act of saying goodbye and going away: *tearful leave takings*

leav-ings /'li:vɪŋz/ *n* [(the) P] BrE things that are left or unwanted, esp. food after a meal —compare LEFTOVERS

Leb-a-non /'lebənən, -nən||-nən, -nɑ:n/ a country in the Middle East, bordering on the Mediterranean; capital Beirut; population 2,897,000 (1989). Once a rich country, important for business, tourism and finance in the Middle East, there was a CIVIL WAR in the 1970s and 80's

left³ *adv* towards or in favour of the left: *Turn left at the crossroads.* —opposite **right**; see also **right and left** (RIGHT⁵)

left⁴ *past tense & participle of LEAVE*¹

Left Bank /ˌlɪːˈbæŋk/ [the] an area of Paris on the left river bank of the Seine, popular with students, artistic people, and free thinkers

left-brain /ˌlɪːˈbreɪn/ *adj* concerned with or resulting from the left side of the brain, which controls the right side of the body and also LOGICAL and ANALYTIC thinking

left field /ˌlɪːˈfi:ld/ *n* **1** a position in BASEBALL in the left side of the OUTFIELD as seen from home base —see picture at BASEBALL **2 (way) out in left field** (of opinions or ideas) strange; very different from what most people think —**der** *n*: a left fielder for the Baltimore Orioles

left-hand /ˌlɪːˈhænd/ *adj* [A] **1** on or to the left side: *the left-hand page* | *on the left-hand side (of the street)* **2** turning or going to the left: *They drove too fast round the left-hand bend.* —opposite **right-hand** **3** LEFT-HANDED (2)

left-handed /ˌlɪːˈhændəd/ *adj* **1** using the left hand for most actions rather than the right: *I'm left-handed.* | *a left-handed golfer* **2** done with the left hand: *a left-handed shot* **3** made for a left-handed person to use: *left-handed scissors* —opposite **right-handed** **4** AmE **left-handed compliment** something said to a person which both praises and offends them —**ness** *n* [U]

left-hand drive /ˌlɪːˈhændˌdraɪv/ *adj* (of a vehicle) having the STEERING WHEEL and driver's controls on the left-hand side —**left-hand drive** *n* [S]: a car with left-hand drive

left-hand-er /ˌlɪːˈhændə/ *n* **1** also **lefty** AmE *infml*— someone who usu. uses their left hand for most actions rather than their right **2** a hit with the left hand —opposite **right-hander**

left-ist /ˌlɪːtɪst/ *n, adj* (often *cap.*) sometimes *derog* (a supporter) of the LEFT² (2) in politics: *a leftist government* | *leftist guerillas* —opposite **rightist** —**ism** *n* [U]

left lug-gage of-fice /ˌlɪːˈlʊɡəʒə/ *BrE* || **baggage room, checkroom** AmE— *n* a place, esp. in a station, where one can leave one's bags for a certain period, to be collected later

left-of-cen-tre /ˌlɪːˈɒfˌsɛnˌtrɛ/ *adj* (of a person or political party) having views that are left-wing to some degree: *She's definitely left-of-centre.*

left-o-ver /ˌlɪːtəʊvə/ *adj* [A] remaining; unused: *After cutting out the curtains, she made some cushion covers from the leftover material.*

left-o-vers /ˌlɪːtəʊvəz/ *n* [P] food remaining uneaten after a meal, esp. when served at a later meal: *She made a stew out of leftovers.* —compare LEAVINGS

left-ward /ˌlɪːtwəd/ *adj* on or towards the left —opposite **rightward**

left-wards /ˌlɪːtwədz/ *esp. BrE* || **leftward** AmE— *adv* on or towards the left —opposite **rightwards**

left wing /ˌlɪːˈwɪŋ/ *n, adj* [the] **1** [+ *sing./pl. v*] (the members) of a group that favour greater political changes than others in the party: *The left wing of the Labour party wants/want reforms in the party's organization.* **2** [+ *sing./pl. v*] (of) the LEFT² (2): *left-wing ideas* | *She's very left-wing.* **3** (on) the left-hand side of the field in such games as football: *He centred the ball from the left wing.* —opposite **right wing** —**left-winger** /ˌlɪːˈwɪŋə/ *n*

left-y, left-ie /ˌlɪːti/ *n infml* **1** *esp. BrE, usu. derog* a supporter of the LEFT² (2) in politics, esp. a COMMUNIST **2** *esp. AmE* a left-handed person

leg¹ /leg/ *n* **1** [C] a limb of a person or animal which includes the foot and is used to support the body and for walking: *Humans and birds have two legs; dogs have four.* | *The leg bends at the knee.* —see picture at CROSS-LEGGED **2** [C] the part of this limb above the foot: *She injured her leg.* **3** [C;U] the leg of an animal as food: *roast leg of lamb* **4** [C] the part of a garment that covers the leg: *There's a hole in your trouser leg.* **5** [C] any of the long thin upright supports on which a piece of furniture stands: *a table/chair leg* **6** [C] a single part or stage, esp. of a journey or competition: *The final leg of the race is from Newcastle to Edinburgh.* **7** [U] also **leg side** /ˌlɪːˈsaɪd/ —the part of a cricket field behind and to the left of the (right-handed) BATSMAN as he/she faces the BOWLER: *He hit the ball to leg.* —opposite **off** **8** **break a leg** a phrase used to wish someone luck before a performance, esp. among actors, because it is considered unlucky to actually say “good luck” **9** **give someone a leg up** BrE *infml* a to help someone to climb or get on something by

supporting the lower part of their leg **b** to help someone to improve their situation **10** **leg before wicket** a way in which a cricketer's INNINGS can be ended when their leg is hit by a ball which would otherwise have hit the three posts of their WICKET **11** **not have a leg to stand on** to have no support for one's position: *He had confirmed what I said, but then he changed his mind and denied it, and I was left without a leg to stand on.* **12** **on its/his/her last legs** *infml* in very poor condition and about to die or stop working: *I think this car is really on its last legs now.* **13** **pull someone's leg** *infml* to make playful fun of someone, e.g. by encouraging them to believe something untrue **14** **short, fat, hairy legs** a phrase often used by the British COMEDIANS Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise describing Ernie Wise's legs **15** **-legged** /legd, legɪd/ having the stated number or kind of legs: *four-legged animals* | *He sat cross-legged on the floor.* —see also BOW-LEGGED, SEA LEGS, **on one's last legs** (LAST¹), **shake a leg** (SHAKE¹), **show a leg** (SHOW¹), **stretch one's legs** (STRETCH¹)

leg² v -gg- **leg it** *old-fash infml, esp. BrE* to walk or run fast, esp. so as to escape

leg-a-cy /ˌlegəsi/ *n* **1** money or other property that one receives from someone who has died, in accordance with their wishes officially recorded while they were alive: *I got a nice little legacy from my aunt.* **2** [(of)] something passed on or left behind by someone or something: *These buildings are a legacy of the last government.* (=it had them built) | *Disease and famine are often legacies of war.* (=are caused by and remain after wars) —compare INHERITANCE

legal /ˈliːgəl/ *adj* **1** allowed or made by law: *Don't worry, it's quite legal!* | *Schooling is a legal requirement for children over five years old in Britain and the US.* —opposite **illegal** **2** [A] of or using the law: *a legal matter* | *The company intends to take legal action* (=SUE or PROSECUTE) *over this matter.* | *The case made legal history.* | *the legal profession* (=lawyers) —**ly** *adv*: *The contract is not legally binding* until it has been signed by both people.

▷ USAGE Compare **legal**, **lawful**, and **legitimate**. Any action which is allowed by law is **legal**: *It is legal for people over 18 to buy alcohol.* **Legal** also means “connected with the law”: *the legal profession.* **Lawful** means “existing according to law” and suggests that the law has moral or religious force: *a lawful marriage* | *your lawful king.* **Legitimate** means “accepted by law, custom, or common belief”: *the legitimate government* | *He claimed that bombing the town was a legitimate act in war.* | *Her illness was a legitimate reason for being absent from work.* <

legal age /ˌliːgəlˈeɪʒ/ *n* [U] the age at which one is legally allowed to do certain things e.g. leave school, vote, etc.: *The legal age for drinking varies from state to state.* —see ADULT (CULTURAL NOTE)

legal aid /ˌliːgəlˈaɪd/ *n* [U] the services of a lawyer in a court case provided free to people too poor to pay for them: *The defendant applied for/was granted legal aid.*

legal ex-ec-u-tive /ˌliːgəlˈɛkɪtɪv/ *n* someone with legal knowledge but without QUALIFICATIONS who helps a professional SOLICITOR —compare PARALEGAL

le-gal-ist-ic /ˌliːgəlɪstɪk/ *adj* *derog* placing great importance on keeping exactly to what the law says, rather than trying to understand and act in accordance with its true meaning and intention —**ally** /kli/ *adv*

le-gal-i-ty /ˌliːgəlɪti/ *n* [U] the condition of being allowed by law: *I would question the legality of the government's decision.*

le-gal-ize also **-ise** BrE /ˌliːgəlaɪz/ *v* [T] to make legal: *Will the government legalize cannabis?* | *legalized abortion* —**ization** /ˌliːgəlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *-gəleɪ- n* [U]

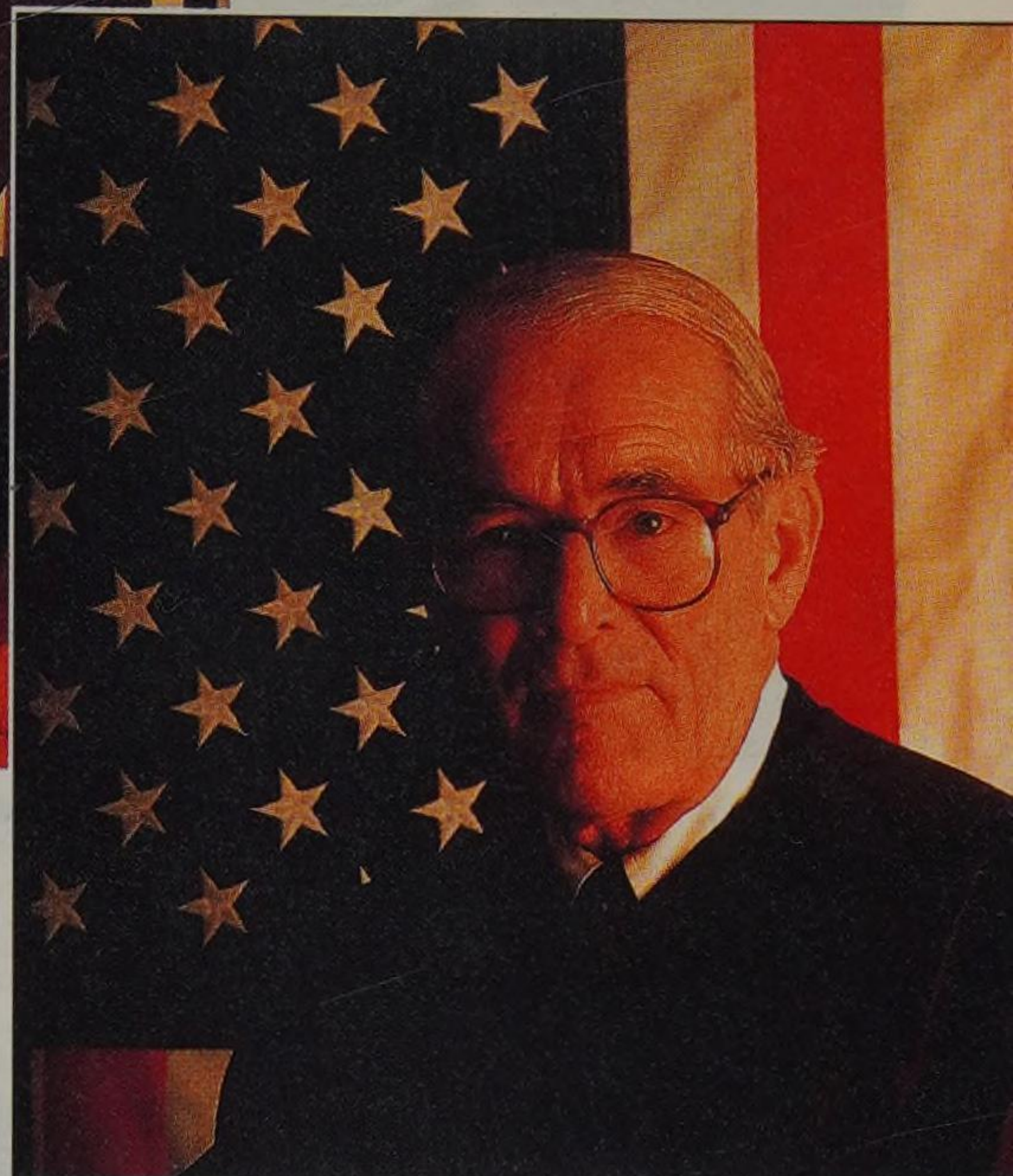
legal o-pin-ion /ˌliːgəlˈɒpɪnɪən/ *n* [C;U] a formal opinion given by a lawyer stating that certain points of a document are true and correct

legal pad /ˌliːgəlˈpæd/ *n* yellow, lined writing paper sold in the US in PADS (2), and popular with lawyers, students, and many others: *taking notes on a legal pad*

legal pro-fes-sion /ˌliːgəlˈprɒfɪʃən/ [the] all the people who are professionally trained to help people with legal problems —see also ATTORNEY, BARRISTER, LAWYER, LEGAL EXECUTIVE, PARALEGAL, SOLICITOR

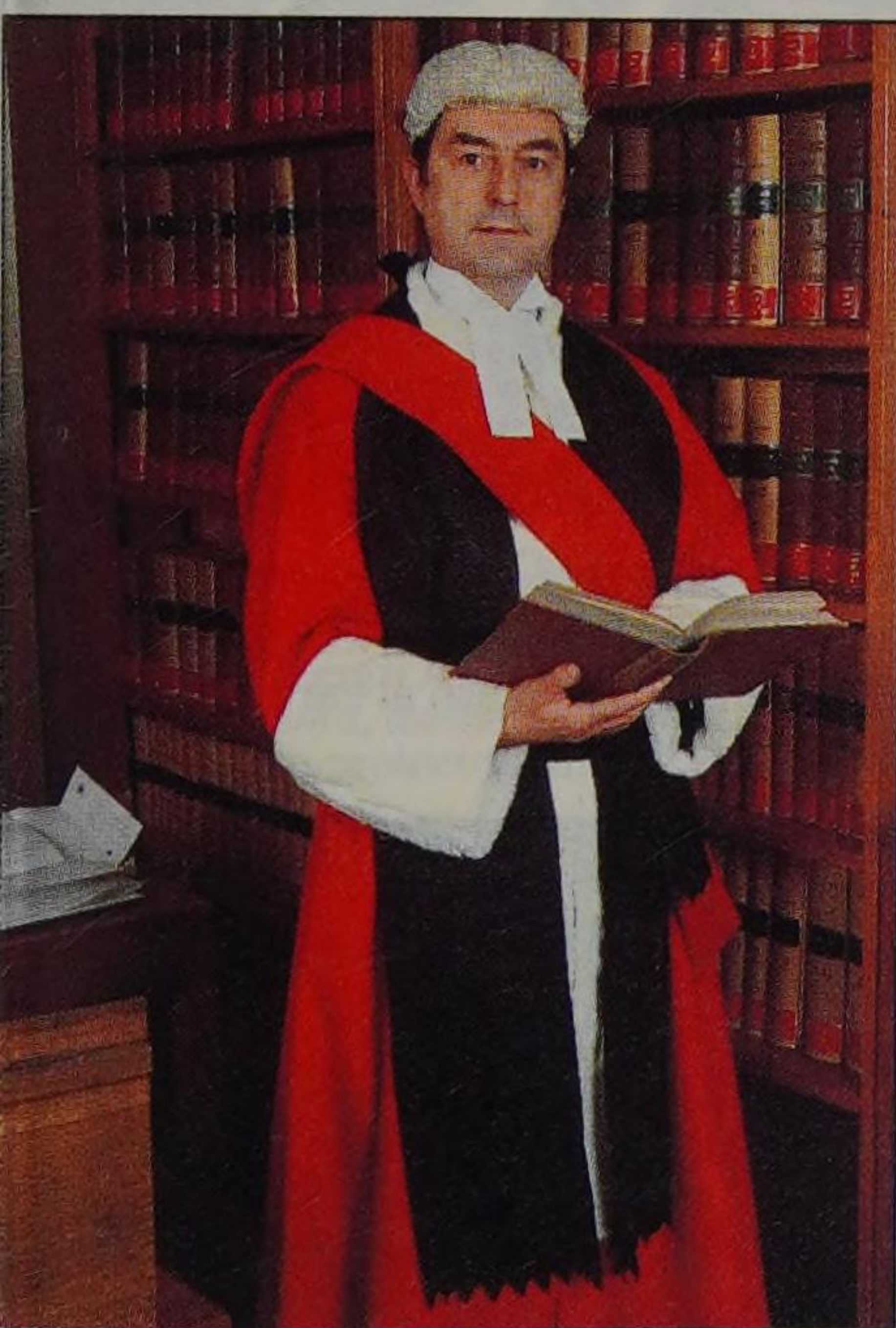


a US courtroom



a US judge

At the trial, the accused stands in the dock while lawyers question people who know about the crime (witnesses) to try to discover the truth. The witnesses stand in a witness box (witness stand *AmE*) where they are asked to make a serious promise (=swear an oath) to tell 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,' usually by putting their hand on the Bible.

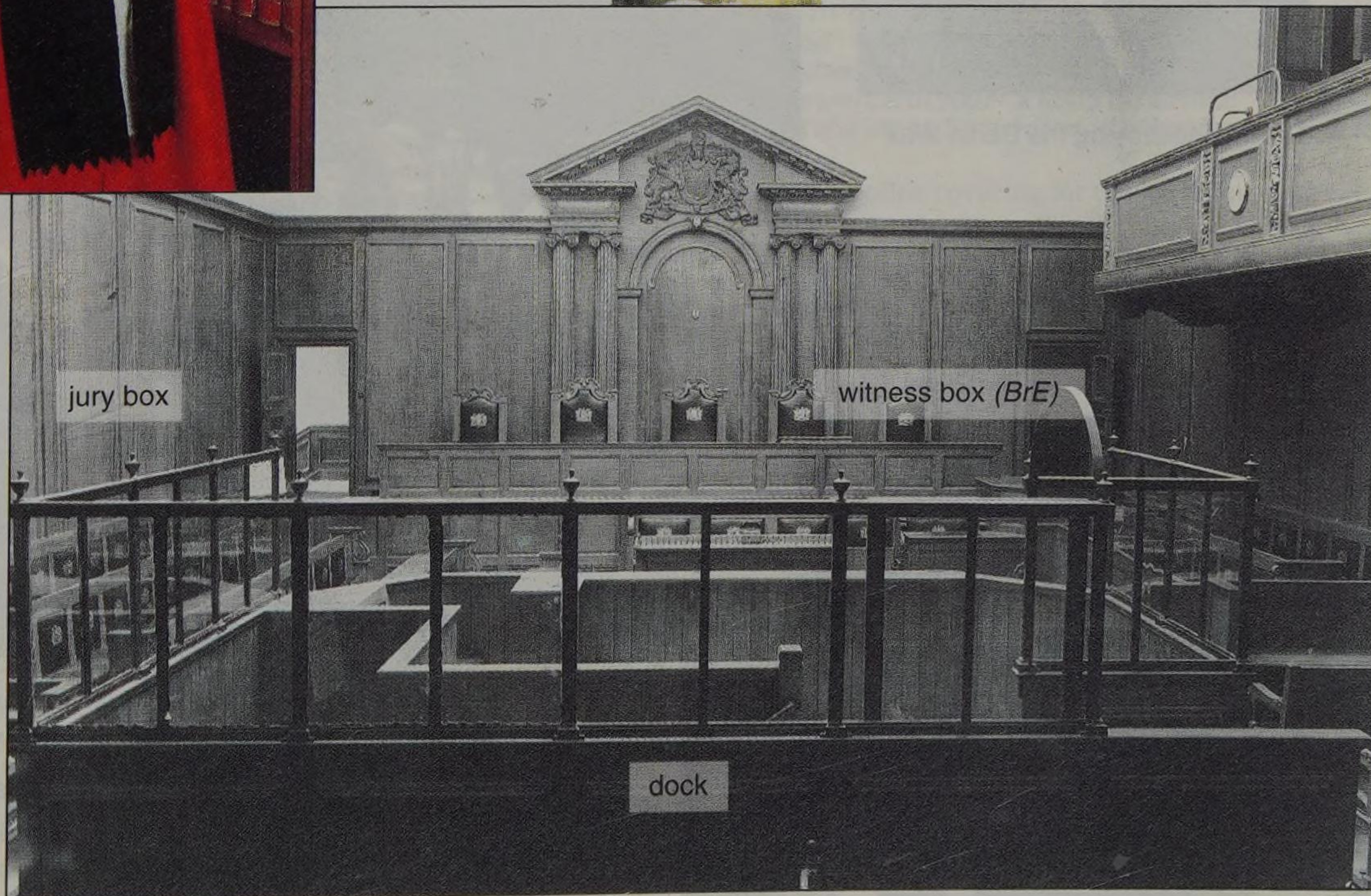


a British judge



statue of Justice

A jury, made up of members of the public, decides whether the person is innocent or guilty (the decision is called the verdict). The judge decides the punishment (=the sentence).



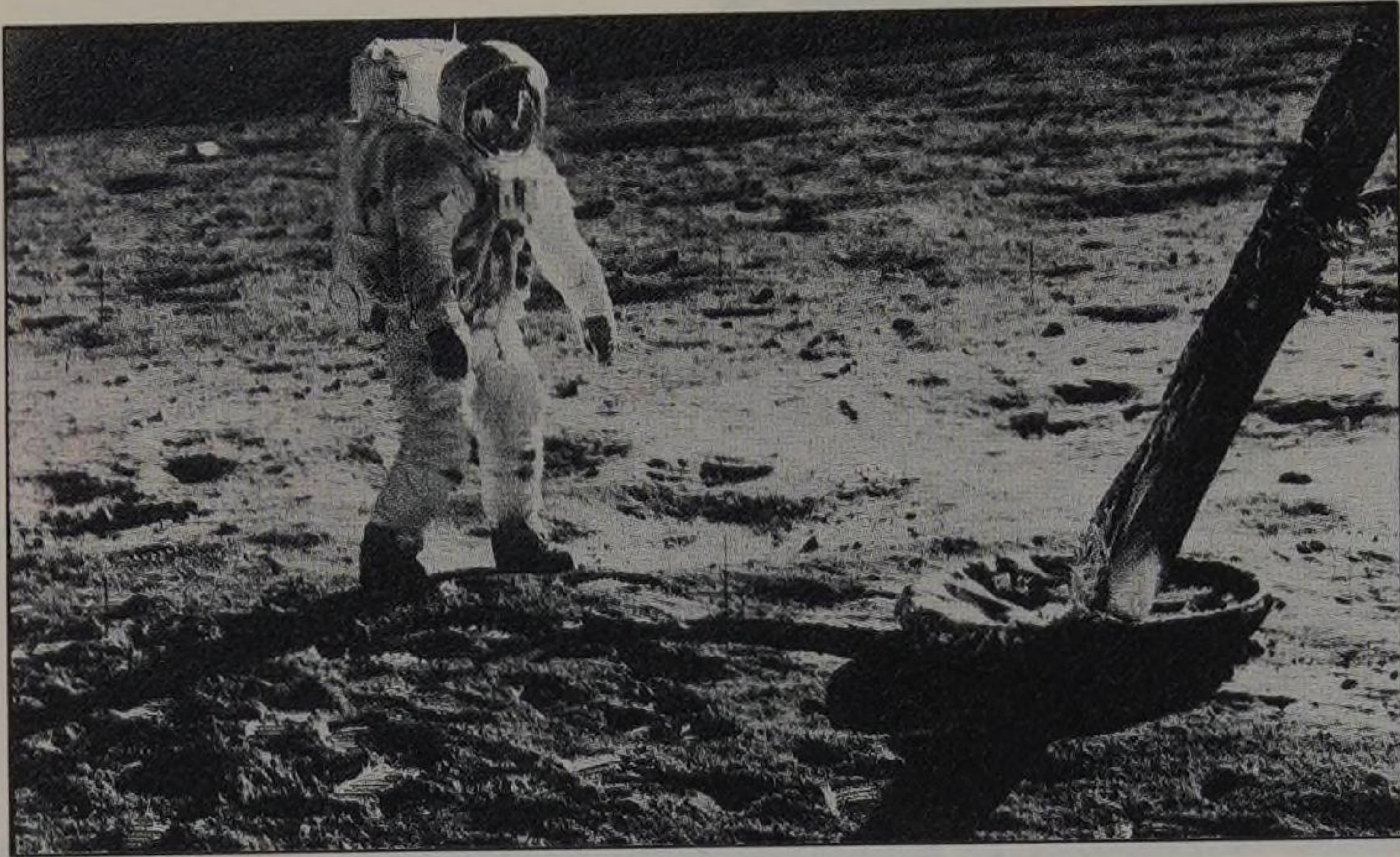
jury box

witness box (*BrE*)

dock

a British courtroom

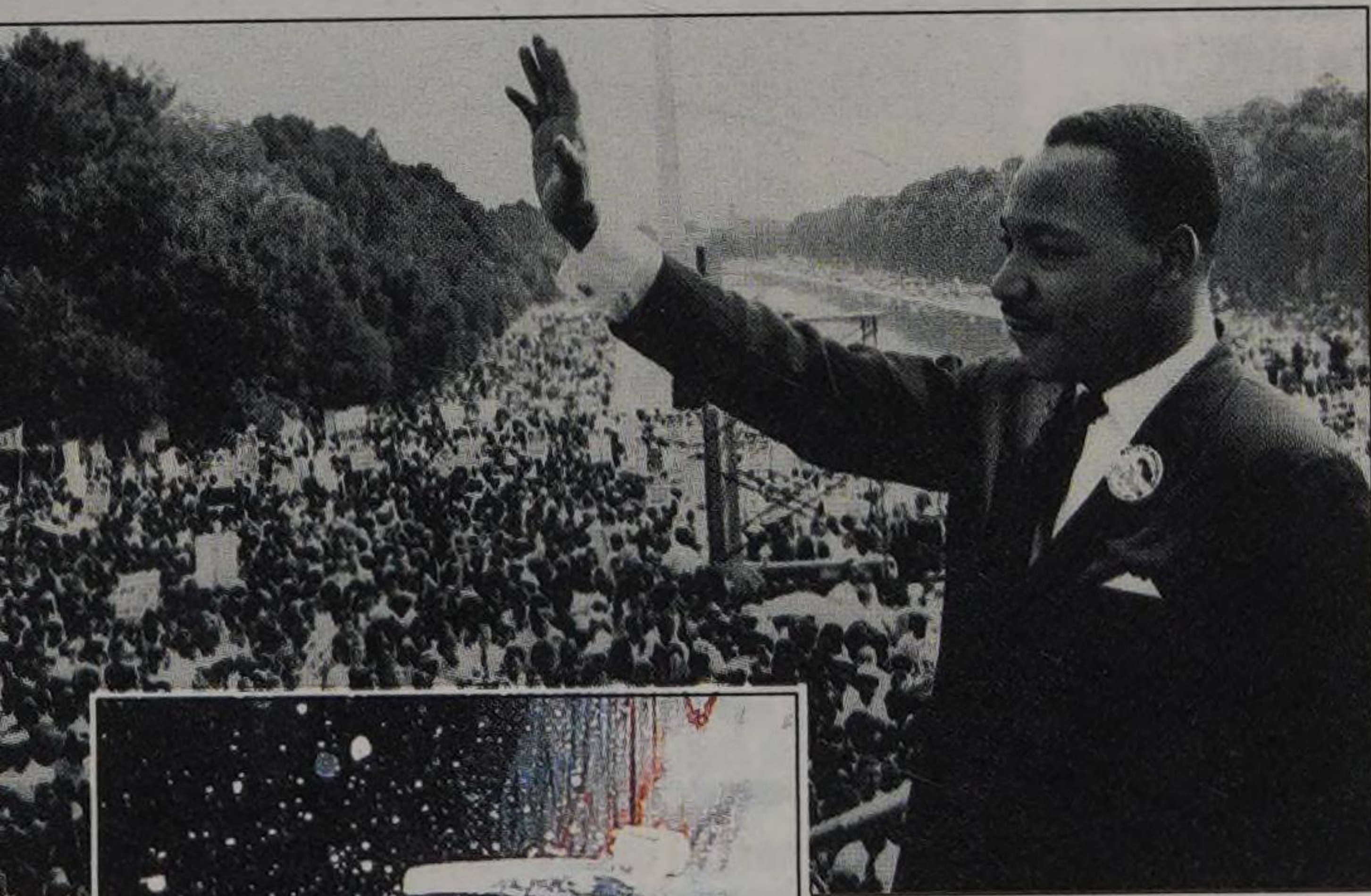
Recent History



In 1969 the American astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon



Nelson Mandela, the leader of the ANC, was set free in 1990 after spending 26 years in prison for his political beliefs



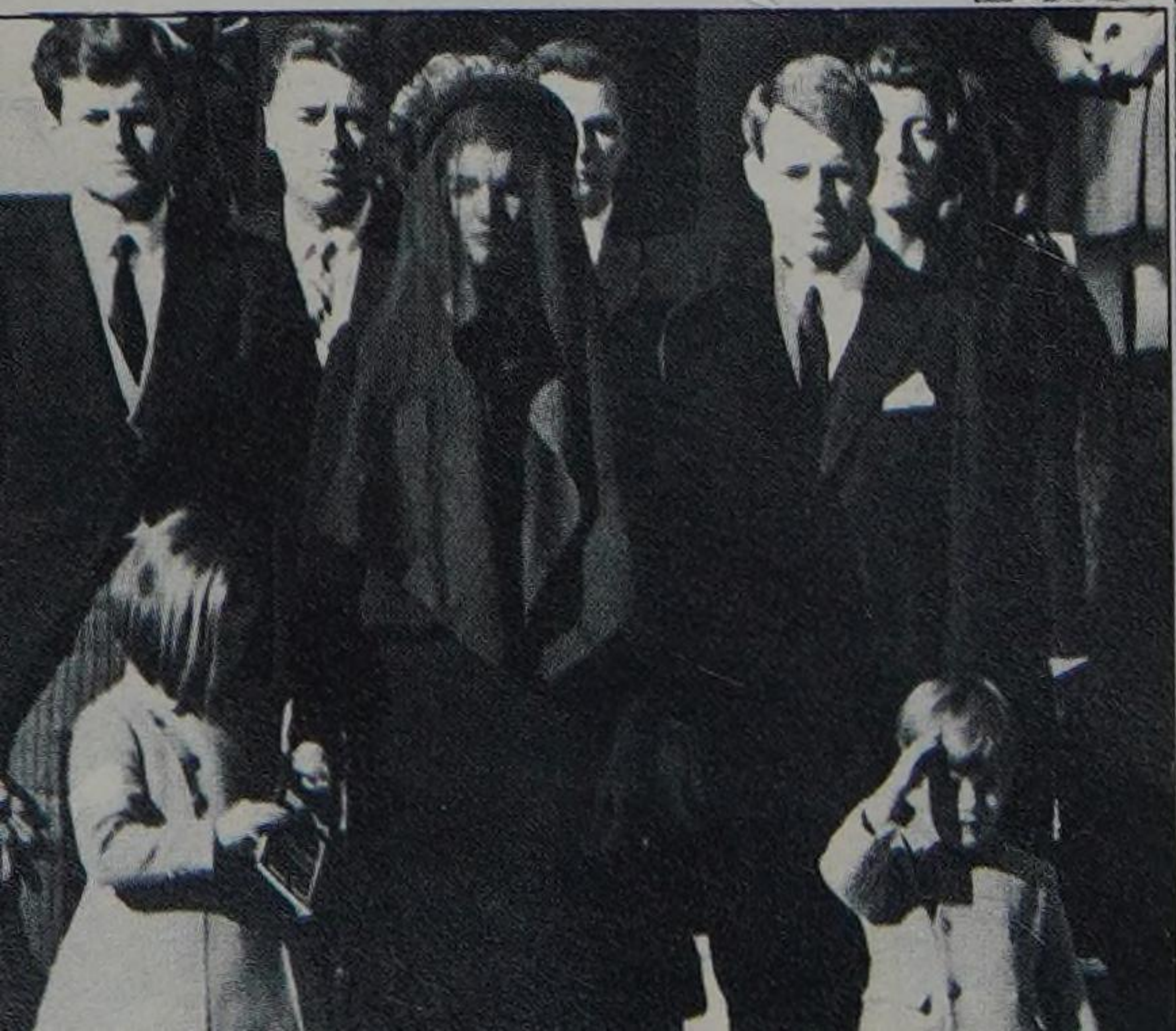
The American civil rights leader Martin Luther King, who was assassinated in 1968



Crowds destroying the Berlin Wall in 1989



The British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin at the Yalta Conference in 1945



The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London in 1953

The American President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963

legal-size /'l.. -/ also **legal**— *adj* *AmE* (of paper) having a size of 8 × 13 inches: *The photocopier is out of legal-size paper.* —compare **LETTER-SIZE**

legal tender /'l.. 'l.. / *n* [U] *fml* any form of money which by law must be accepted when offered in payment

leg-ate /'legət/ *n* a high-ranking representative, esp. a priest appointed by the Pope as his representative

leg-a-tee /'legə'ti:/ *n* *tech* a person who receives a **LEGACY** (1)

le-ga-tion /lɪ'geɪʃən/ *n* (the building or offices of) a group of officials who represent their government in a foreign country. It is lower in rank and importance than an **EMBASSY**: *the Cuban legation* | *a member of a legation* —compare **EMBASSY**

le-ga-to /lɪ'gætəʊ/ *adj, adv* (of music) played smoothly, with the notes sliding smoothly into each other —compare **STACCATO**

leg-break /'l.. -/ *n* (in cricket) a slow ball that turns from the leg (**LEG** (7)) side to the off (**OFF**⁴) side when it bounces (**BOUNCE**)

le-gend /'ledʒənd/ *n* 1 [C] an old story about great events and people in ancient times, which may not be true: *In the legend of ancient Troy, the Greeks got into the city by hiding in a wooden horse.* 2 [U] such stories collectively: *a character in Irish legend* 3 [C] a famous person or act, esp. in a particular area of activity: *He is a legend in his own lifetime for his scientific discoveries.* 4 [C] *old-fash* the words that explain a picture, map, table, etc., in a book —compare **MYTH**

le-gen-da-ry /'ledʒəndəri/—*deri*/ *adj* 1 of, like, or told in a legend: *legendary characters* 2 [(for)] very famous: *the legendary Elvis Presley* | *This restaurant is legendary for its fish.* (=it serves famously good fish)

Legend of Sleep-y Hol-low /'l.. 'l.. 'l.. /, **The** a story by Washington Irving in which the main character, Ichabod Crane, is frightened by what he thinks is a headless man riding a horse —see also **HEADLESS HORSEMAN** and see colour picture on page 620

le-ger /'ledʒər/ also **leger line** /'l.. -/— *n* a **LEDGER** (2)

le-ger-de-main /'ledʒədə'mein/—*dʒər*/ *n* [U] *old-fash* 1 quick skilful use of the hands in performing tricks: *the conjurer's legerdemain* 2 *fml* clever but rather deceitful use of argument: *The lawyer confused the jury with his legal legerdemain.*

leg-gings /'legɪŋz/ *n* [P] coverings, usu. made of wool or of strong cloth, leather, etc., worn to keep the lower legs warm, or to protect them

leg-gy /'legi/ *adj* (esp. of a child, a young animal, or a woman) having long rather thin legs, esp. in comparison with the rest of the body: *a leggy blonde* —**giness** *n* [U]

le-gi-ble /'ledʒəbəl/ *adj* (of handwriting or print) that can be read, esp. easily: *His handwriting is barely legible.* (=is very difficult to read) —opposite **illegible** —**bly** *adv*: *Please write legibly when you fill in the form.* —**bility** /'ledʒə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

le-gion¹ /'lɪdʒən/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] 1 a division of an army, esp. of the army of ancient Rome: *Each legion contained between 3000 and 6000 soldiers.* 2 [(of)] also **legions** *pl.*—*fml* a large group of people: *She has a legion* (=lots) of admirers.

legion² *adj* [F *no comp.*] *fml* or *pomp* very many: *Her admirers are legion.*

le-gion-a-ry /lɪ'dʒənəri/—*neri*/ *n* a member of a **LEGION**¹ (1)

le-gion-naire /lɪ'dʒə'neər/ *n* a member of a **LEGION** (1), esp. of the army of ancient Rome or of the French **FOREIGN LEGION**

legionnaire's dis-ease /'l.. 'l.. 'l.. / *n* [U] a serious infectious disease of the lungs, caught esp. by groups of people gathered together in a building such as a hospital or hotel. It first appeared in people attending a meeting of the American Legion in 1976.

le-gis-late /'ledʒə'sleɪt/ *v* [I (for, against)] to make a law or laws: *The Senate has legislated against the importation of dangerous drugs.*

le-gis-la-tion /'ledʒə'sleɪʃən/ *n* [U] 1 a law or set of laws: *The government will introduce legislation to restrict the sale of firearms.* 2 the act of making laws

le-gis-la-tive /'ledʒə'slætɪv/—*leɪtɪv*/ *adj* [A] having the power

and duty to make laws: *a legislative assembly* —compare **EXECUTIVE** (2), **JUDICIAL**

le-gis-la-tor /'ledʒə'sleɪtər/ *n* a maker of laws or a member of a lawmaking body

le-gis-la-ture /'ledʒə'sleɪtʃər, -lətʃər/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a body of people who have the power to make and change laws —compare **EXECUTIVE**² (2), **JUDICIARY** and see also extra information on page 568

le-git /lɪ'dʒɪt/ *adj* *sl* for **LEGITIMATE** (1a): *I promise you, the deal's strictly legit.*

le-git-i-mate¹ /lɪ'dʒɪtɪmət/ *adj* 1 correct or allowable **a** according to the law: *The Crown Prince has a legitimate claim to the throne.* | *Far from being a legitimate business, it was a front for a drugs racket.* **b** according to generally accepted standards of behaviour: *It's perfectly legitimate to question his instructions if you think they're wrong.* —opposite **illegitimate** 2 born of parents who are legally married to each other —opposite **illegitimate** 3 reasonable; sensible: *From her failure to reply we reached the quite legitimate conclusion that she wasn't interested.* —see **LEGAL (USAGE)** —**ly** *adv* —**macy** *n* [U]

legitimate² *v* [T] *AmE* for **LEGITIMIZE**

le-git-i-mize also **-mise** *BrE* /lɪ'dʒɪtɪmaɪz/ also **le-git-i-ma-tize, -tise** *BrE* /lɪ'dʒɪtɪmətaɪz/||also **legitimate** *AmE*— *v* [T] 1 **a** to make legal **b** to make (esp. something bad) seem right or acceptable 2 to make (a child) legitimate, esp. by the marriage of the parents

leg-less /'legləs/ *adj* *infml, esp. BrE* very drunk

Leg-o /'legəʊ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a set of small coloured plastic building blocks of various shapes and sizes which can be fitted together to make many different things; an educational toy esp. for young children. Many fine examples of its use are on show at **Legoland** in Denmark.

leg-pull /'l.. -/ *n* *infml* a playful attempt to make a fool of someone by telling them something that is not true —compare **pull someone's leg** (**LEG**¹)

leg-room /'legrʊm, -ru:m/ *n* [U] room enough to position one's legs comfortably when seated: *There's not much legroom in the back of this car.*

leg side /'l.. -/ *n* **LEG**¹ (7)

leg-ume /'legju:m, lɪ'gju:m/ *n* 1 (the seed case of) a plant of the bean family that has its seeds in a **POD** (=a thin case) which breaks in two along its length 2 esp. *AmE* **PULSE**³ —**uminous** /lɪ'gju:mɪnəs/ *adj*

leg-up /'l.. -/ *n* *BrE infml* 1 a help in getting up onto something by using somebody's joined hands as a step: *Give me a leg-up onto this wall, will you?* 2 (help in) advancing oneself: *It's a bit of a leg-up from barmaid to banker, isn't it?*

leg-warm-er /'l.. 'l.. / *n* a woollen covering for the leg from the ankle to the knee

leg-work /'legwɜ:k/—*wɜ:rk*/ *n* [U] *infml* work that needs much walking about or tiring effort: *He leaves someone else to do all the legwork of gathering information while he sits in the office and collates it.*

Le Ha-vre /lə 'ɑ:vɾə/ a city and port in N France on the river Seine and English Channel, receiving many ships from England

lei /leɪ/ *n* a circular bunch of flowers placed round one's neck as a greeting, esp. in Hawaii

Leib-niz, Leibnitz /'laɪbnɪts/, **Gott-fried Wil-helm** /'gɒt-fri:d 'vɪhelm/—*'gɑ:z*-, **Baron von** (1646–1716) a German thinker and **MATHEMATICIAN** who invented the **CALCULUS** at the same time as, but independently of, Newton

Lei-ca /'laɪkə/ a German company making high-quality cameras

Leices-ter /'lestər/ a city in Leicestershire where the local government for that **COUNTY** is based

Leices-ter-shire /'lestəʃər/—*tər*/ *written abbrev.* **Leics** a **COUNTY** in central England

Lego



Leicester Square /ˌliːsəˈtʃə/ a square in central London with several cinemas, restaurants, and theatres. It is a popular place with tourists and young people. —see colour map on page 817

Leigh /liː/, **Jan-et** /ˈdʒænɪt/ (1927–) an American actress remembered esp. for her role in the film *Psycho* —see picture on page 685

Leigh, Viv-i-en /ˈviːvɪən/ (1913–67) an English actress best remembered for playing the part of Scarlett O'Hara in the film *Gone with the Wind* —see colour picture on page 685

Leigh-Pemberton /ˌliː ˈpembətən/ -bər-, **Robin** (1927–) an English banker who became Governor of the Bank of England in 1983

Leinster /ˈleɪnstə/ a PROVINCE in the Republic of Ireland which includes 12 counties (COUNTY) and the city of Dublin

Leipzig /ˈlaɪpsɪɡ/ an important business and CULTURAL centre in E central Germany, with a large university.

leisure /ˈleɪʒə/ || ˈliːz- / *n* [U] 1 time when one is free from work or duties of any kind; free time: *She's very busy; she doesn't get much leisure (time).* | *Fishing is a popular leisure pursuit/activity.* | *leisure shoes* | *a leisure suit* 2 at one's leisure at a convenient time: *Do it at your leisure; it's not urgent.*

leisure centre /ˈleɪʒə ˈtɜːntə/ *n* BrE a place providing some of a range of leisure activities e.g. various sports, swimming, cinema, restaurant, etc.

leisured /ˈleɪʒəd/ || ˈliːzəd/ *adj* having no regular work and plenty of free time: *the leisureed classes*

leisurely 1 /ˈleɪʒəli/ || ˈliːzəli/ *adj* moving, acting, or done without hurrying: *a leisurely stroll* | *I had a leisurely glass of beer.* (=I drank it without hurrying) —**liness** *n* [U]

leisurely 2 *adv* rare in a leisurely way

leisure suit /ˈleɪʒə ˈsuːt/ *n* AmE a suit of matching shirt and trousers, typically made of POLYESTER and worn by middle-aged and older men. Leisure suits are considered very unfashionable by young people and are often the subject of jokes: *When we saw all the leisure suits waiting in line we decided we'd better pick another movie.*

leisure-wear /ˈleɪʒəweə/ || ˈliːzə-/ *n* [U] informal clothes suitable for sport or for relaxation

leit-mo-tiv, -tif /ˈlaɪtməʊˌtɪf/ *n* 1 a musical phrase that is played at various times during an OPERA or similar musical work to suggest or go along with a particular character or idea —compare MOTIF (3) 2 something in a work of art, a person's behaviour, etc., that appears repeatedly and is seen to be a controlling influence or important interest

Lei-trim /ˈleɪtrɪm/ a COUNTY in the N of the Republic of Ireland

Le Mans /lə ˈmɒn/ || -ˈmɑːn/ (a city in NW France known internationally for) a yearly 24-hour car race

lem-ming /ˈlemɪŋ/ *n* a ratlike animal living in cold northern parts of the world, which sometimes travels in large groups. Many of them drown in the sea on these journeys and it is popularly thought that they deliberately kill themselves in large numbers: *The soldiers continued their advance, possessed by some lemming-like instinct for self-destruction* —see picture at RODENT

lem-on /ˈlemən/ *n* 1 [C;U] a fruit with a hard yellow skin and sour juice: *fish served with slices of lemon* 2 [U] a drink made from this fruit 3 [U] pale yellow: *walls painted in lemon* 4 [C] BrE *sl* a foolish person: *Don't do it like that, you lemon!* 5 [C] *sl* something unsatisfactory or worthless; a failure: *That car he sold me turned out to be a real lemon; it hasn't got an engine!*

lem-on-ade /ˌleməˈneɪd-/ *n* [U] 1 BrE a CARBONATED drink tasting of lemon 2 a drink made from fresh lemons with sugar and water added

lemon curd /ˌliːm ˈkɜːd/ *n* [U] BrE a cooked mixture of eggs, butter, and lemon juice, eaten on bread

lemon sole /ˌliːm ˈsəʊl/ *n* a flat fish used as food

lemon squash /ˌliːm ˈskwɒʃ/ *n* [U] esp. BrE a drink made from lemon juice and sugar, to which water is added before it is drunk

Lem-sip /ˈlemsɪp/ *n* ˈ5[C;U] *tdmk* a type of medicine made by Reckitt & Colman for curing colds; Lemsip is a powder which is mixed with hot water to make a drink

le-mur /ˈliːmə/ *n* any of several mostly small monkey-like forest animals that are active at night, found esp. in Madagascar

lend /lend/ *v* **lent** /lent/ 1 [T (to)] to give (someone) the possession or use of (something, such as money or a car) on the condition that it or something like it will be returned later: *I never lend money.* | *Reluctantly I agreed to lend it to her.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Can you lend me £10 until tomorrow?* 2 [I;T] to give out (money that must be repaid) so as to earn profit from interest, esp. as a business: *The bank currently lends (money) at 10 per cent interest.* 3 [T+obj(i)+obj(d)] to give as an additional quality: *The presence of the bishop lent the occasion a certain dignity.* [+obj+to] *The many flags lent colour to the streets.* 4 **lend an ear** to listen, esp. sympathetically: *She was talking about her operation to anyone willing to lend an ear.* 5 **lend itself to** rather *fml* (of a thing) to be suitable for: *This book lends itself admirably to film adaptation.* [+v-ing] *This play lends itself to being performed in an open-air theatre.* 6 **lend one's name to** to agree to be publicly connected with: *I'm surprised he lent his name to a cheap publicity stunt.* —compare BORROW (1); see also **lend a hand (with)** (HAND¹) —**er** *n*

lending li-bra-ry /ˈliː ˈbrɪəri/ *n* a library which lends books, music, etc.

lending rate /ˈliː ˈreɪt/ *n* the RATE¹ (2) charged by a bank or BUILDING SOCIETY for lending money —see also MINIMUM LENDING RATE

Len-dl /ˈlendi/, **I-van** /iːˈvɑːn/ (1960–) an American professional tennis player, born in Czechoslovakia. He was the World Singles Champion in 1982, and won the European Tennis Championship in 1985.

lend-lease /ˈleɪ ˈleɪz/ *n* an arrangement during the Second World War by which the US sent necessary supplies to countries friendly to the US. These were either returned at the end of the war or a similar exchange was made.

length /leŋθ/ *n* 1 [C;U] the measurement of something from one end to the other or of its longest side: *The length of the room is ten metres; it is ten metres in length.* (compare *It is ten metres long.*) | *Take two pieces of string of different lengths.* —compare BREADTH, WIDTH 2 [U] the quality or condition of being long: *The students complained about the length of the exam paper.* (=complained that it was too long) 3 [the(of)] the distance from one end to the other: *We walked the length of (=all along) the street.* 4 [C] the measure from one end to the other of a horse, boat, etc., used in stating distances in races: *The horse won by three lengths.* 5 [C (of)] a piece of something, esp. of a certain length or for a particular purpose: *He tied it with a length of string.* 6 **at length** *fml* a using many words; in great detail: *She spoke at (great) length about the plight of the refugees.* **b lit** after a long time; at last: *At length he returned.* 7 **go to any length(s)/great/some/considerable/unprecedented lengths** to be willing to do anything, however difficult, dangerous, unpleasant, or morally wrong: *He'll go to any lengths to get his child back from his ex-wife.* | *They went to unprecedented lengths to limit press coverage of the trial.* 8 **the length and breadth of** in or through every part of: *He travelled the length and breadth of the country raising funds for the party.* —see also **at arm's length** (ARM¹), **measure one's length** (MEASURE¹)

length-en /ˈleŋθən/ *v* [I;T] to make or become longer: *to lengthen a skirt* | *The days lengthened as summer approached.* —opposite **shorten**

length-ways /ˈleŋθweɪz/ also **length-wise** /-waɪz/ — *adv* in the direction of the longest side: *He laid the bricks lengthways.*

length-y /ˈleŋθi/ *adj* sometimes derog very long: *a lengthy meeting/speech/discussion* —**ily** *adv* —**iness** *n* [U]

le-ni-ent /ˈliːniənt/ *adj* not severe in judgment or punishment; gentle: *a lenient judge who passes lenient sentences* —**ly** *adv* —**ence**, **-ency** *n* [U]

Len-in /ˈlenɪn/, **Vlad-i-mir Il-yich** /ˈvlædɪmɪə ˈɪlɪtʃ/ (1870–1924) a Russian Marxist REVOLUTIONARY and writer who was leader of the Bolshevik party and first leader of the Soviet Union (1918–24) —see picture on page 755

Len-in-grad /ˈlenɪŋgræd/ see ST PETERSBURG

Len-in-is-m /ˈlenɪnɪzəm/ *n* [U] the teachings of Lenin, based on those of Karl Marx, regarding political, economic, and social matters; MARXISM-LENINISM —**Leninist** *n*, *adj* —**Leninite** *n*, *adj*

len-i-ty /'lenɪti/ *n* [U] *fml* rare gentleness; MERCY

Len-non /'lenən/, **John** (1940–80) an English singer, GUITAR player, and songwriter who was a member of the **Beatles** and joint writer of many songs with Paul McCartney. In 1970 the Beatles separated and John Lennon continued alone, producing songs of peace and love. He was murdered in the US. He was married to Yoko Ono. —see also **BEATLES**

Len-o /'lenəʊ/, **Jay** (1950–) an American COMEDIAN who became host of the **TONIGHT SHOW** in 1992

lens /lenz/ *n* **1** a piece of glass, plastic, or other transparent material, curved on one or both sides, which makes a beam of light passing through it bend, spread out, become narrower, change direction, etc. It is used in glasses for the eyes, in cameras, in microscopes, etc.: *He has very thick lenses in his glasses.* —see pictures at **CAMERA** and **GLASSES** **2** a piece of round transparent flesh behind the PUPIL (=black opening in front of the eye), which acts like a glass lens in focusing (FOCUS) light —see picture at **EYE** **3** *infml* for **CONTACT LENS**

lent /lent/ *past tense and participle* of **LEND**

Lent *n* [U] the 40 days before Easter, during which Christians customarily do not allow themselves all their usual pleasures: *What are you giving up for Lent?*

len-til /'lentl/ *n* the small round seed of a beanlike plant, dried and used for food. Lentils are popular with people who like to eat healthily, esp. those who do not eat meat, and often made fun of by non-VEGETARIANS.

len-to /'lentəʊ/ *adj, adv* (of music) played slowly

Le-o /'li:əʊ/ *n* **1** the third sign of the ZODIAC, represented by a lion —see picture at **ZODIAC** **2** [C] a person born between July 23 and August 22: *He's (a) Leo, is he? I thought all Leos were lively.* —see **ZODIAC** (USAGE)

Leon-ard /'lenəd-ərd/, **Sugar Ray** (1956–) an American BOXER

Leonardo see **Leonardo DA VINCI**

le-o-nine /'li:ənəɪn/ *adj fml* of or like a lion: *a noble leonine head*

leop-ard /'lepəd-ərd/ **leop-ard-ess** /'lepədəs-ər-/ *fem.* — *n* **1** a large fierce meat-eating catlike animal, yellowish with black spots, that lives in Africa and southern Asia —see picture at **BIG CATS** **2** **the leopard doesn't change his spots** *saying* people cannot change their basic nature or character

le-o-tard /'li:ətɑ:d-ɑ:rd/ *n* a tight-fitting garment that covers the whole upper body from the neck to the legs, worn esp. by dancers

Le Pen /lə 'pen/, **Jean-Ma-rie** /ʒɒn mə'ri:ʒɑ:n-/ (1928–) a French extreme RIGHT-WING politician, leader of the French National Front, which supports capital punishment and sending people of other nationalities home to their countries of origin

lep-er /'lepər/ *n* **1** *now usu. taboo* a person who has the disease leprosy. Formerly lepers were forced to live away from towns. They had to wear a bell and shout "unclean, unclean" to warn people not to come near them for fear of passing on the disease: *a leper hospital* **2** a person who is avoided by other people for social or moral reasons.

lep-re-chaun /'leprəkɔ:n-kɔ:n/ *n* (in old Irish stories) a kind of fairy in the form of a little man or ELF who usu. wears green, makes shoes for the fairies, and knows where gold is hidden

lep-ro-sy /'leprəsi/ *n* [U] a long-lasting infectious disease in which the skin becomes rough and thick with small round hard whitish marks, and the flesh and nerves are slowly destroyed —*rous adj*

Ler-ner and Loewe /,lɜ:nər ənd 'ləʊ-,lɜ:r-/ two American songwriters, Alan Jay Lerner (1918–86) who wrote the words and Frederick Loewe (1904–88) who wrote the music. Together they wrote many successful musical plays including *My Fair Lady* and *Gigi*.

Lenin



Ler-wick /'lɜ:wik-/'lɜ:r-/ a town and port which is the capital of the Shetland Islands. Lerwick is on Mainland island and is a centre of the fishing industry.

les-bi-an /'lezbiən/ *adj, n* (of or being) a woman who is sexually attracted to women rather than to men —compare **BISEXUAL** (2), **HETEROSEXUAL**, **HOMOSEXUAL** — *~ism n* [U]

lese-ma-jes-ty also **lèse-ma-jes-té** /,li:z 'mædʒɪsti, 'leɪz 'mædʒəsteɪ-/ *n* [U] **1** *law* criminal action against a ruling king or government **2** *often humor* behaviour that makes an important person feel offended; lack of respect

Le-so-tho /lə'səʊtəʊ-/'səʊtəʊ/ a mountainous country in S Africa surrounded by the republic of South Africa, and a member of the COMMONWEALTH (1); capital Maseru; population 1,700,000 (1989)

le-sion /'li:zən/ *n med* **1** a wound: *multiple lesions on the back* **2** a dangerous change in the form or working of a part of the body, esp. after an operation or accident: *a brain lesion*

less¹ /les/ *adv* [(than)] **1** (with adjectives and adverbs) not so; not as; to a smaller degree (than): *I hope the next train will be less crowded than this one.* | *Try and speak less indistinctly.* | (euph) *I think she was being less than truthful.* (=was not at all truthful) —opposite **more** **2** (with verbs) not so much: *Try to shout less.* | *He works less than he used to.* —opposite **more** **3** **less and less** increasingly rarely: *He comes here less and less.* **4** **much/still less** and certainly not: *The baby can't even walk, much less run.*

less² *determiner, pron* (comparative of **LITTLE**) [(of, than)] **1** (with [U] nouns and sing. [C] nouns) a smaller amount; not so much: *Statistics show that people now drink less beer than they used to, and smoke fewer cigarettes.* | *I can't eat all that cake — could you give me a little less?* | *To get the balance right you need a bit less of the almond flavouring and a bit more of the cinnamon.* | *Why have I got less than you?* | *Fourteen is less than seventeen.* | *Nothing in this shop is less than* (=costs below) *£10.* | *Can we have a bit less noise/less of that noise?* (=Be quiet!) | *Increased taxes mean that people have less to spend on luxuries.* | *She's less of a fool than* (=not so foolish as) *I thought.* | *He's eating (even) less than usual.* | *I'll be back in less than no time.* (=very soon) | **No less than a thousand people came.** (=it was surprising that there were so many) | *There were not less than* (=at least) *a thousand people there.* | *Good heavens! It's the President himself, no less/It's no less a person than the President!* (=it is surprising to see such an important person) | *It's nothing (more or) less than* (=just the same as; no better than) *murder to send such a small group of soldiers out to attack those heavily defended enemy positions.* —opposite **more** **2** (with pl. [C] nouns) a smaller number; not so many; fewer: *Now that our system's computerized, we hope there will be less problems than before.* —opposite **more**; see **USAGE** **3** **less and less** (an amount) that continues to become smaller: *Margaret eats less and less/does less and less work/is less and less able to get out of bed.* —opposite **more and more** **4** **the less:** a to a smaller or lower amount, degree, etc.: *In spite of his misdeeds, I don't love him any the less.* | *They will think (all) the less* (=have a lower opinion) *of you for what you have done.* **b** (used for showing that two things get smaller, or change, together): *The less he eats the thinner he gets.* —see also **NEVERTHELESS**, **NONETHELESS**, **more or less** (**MORE**²); see **MORE**² (**USAGE**)

▷ **USAGE** In informal English many people now use **less** and **least** with plural nouns: *There are less cars on the road at night*, but this is still considered to be incorrect. **Fewer** and **fewest** are the accepted forms: *There are fewer cars on the road at night.* —see also **FEW** (**USAGE**)◀

less³ *prep* not counting; but we subtract; **MINUS**¹: *She gave me £100, less £5 for her own costs.* (=She gave me £95.)

-less see **WORD FORMATION**

less a-ble /,lɪ- 'ə-/ *adj, n* [(the+P)] *euph* an expression used in education for those children who find learning more difficult

les-see /le'si:z/ *n* a person who by a **LEASE** (=a written agreement) is given the use of a house, building, or land for a certain time in return for payment to the **LESSOR** (=the owner)

less-en /'lesən/ *v* [I,T] to make or become smaller in size, worth, importance, appearance, etc.: *This defeat lessens our chances of winning the championship.* | *His behaviour*

had lessened him in her eyes. (=given her a lower opinion of him) | The noise lessened as the plane got further away.

less-er /'lesə/ *adj, adv* [A] rather *fml* (not used with *than*) not so great or so much as the other (of two) in worth, degree, size, etc.: *the lesser of two evils* | *one of the lesser-known modern poets*

Les-sing /'lesɪŋ/, **Dor-is** /'dɒrɪs/ (1919–) a British writer brought up in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). She wrote *The Golden Notebook* and a set of NOVELS, *The Children of Violence*, concerning politics and FEMINISM.

les-son /'lesən/ *n* 1 [(in, on)] (a period of time for) the teaching of something to someone, esp. to a pupil or class in school: *Each history lesson lasts 40 minutes.* | *She gives drawing lessons/lessons in drawing.* (=She teaches people to draw.) | *Today's French lesson will be on irregular verbs.* | *a driving lesson* 2 (good sense learnt from) a warning example or experience: *That accident taught me a lesson; I won't drive too fast again.* | *His car accident has been a lesson to him to stop driving too fast.* | "There," I said, "let that be a lesson to you" when he fell off his bike after trying to ride it without holding on to the handlebars. —see also **learn one's lesson** (LEARN) 3 a short piece read from the Bible during religious services

les-sor /le'sɔː/ *n* a person who gives the use of a house, building, or land by a LEASE (=a written agreement) to someone else (the LESSEE) for a certain time, in return for payment

lest /lest/ *conj fml or old-fash* 1 in order that the stated thing should not happen; in case: *Lest anyone (should) worry that this will lead to price increases, let me reassure them that it will not.* 2 (with words expressing fear) that: *I was afraid lest she (should) be offended.* 3 **lest we forget** a phrase which is often written on British MONUMENTS to people killed in the First and Second World Wars, or on WREATHS put on such monuments, e.g. on Remembrance Day

let /let/ *v let; pres. participle letting* [T] 1 [not usu. pass.] to allow (to do or happen): *I wanted to go out but my mum wouldn't let me.* [+obj+to-v] *She lets her children play in the street.* | *He's letting his beard grow.* | *He let a week go by before answering the letter.* | *Please let me buy you a drink.* (=a polite offer) | *She took off the dog's lead and let it loose.* | *They tied the prisoner to the fence and let the dogs at him.* (=allowed the dogs to attack) —see CAUSE (USAGE) 2 [+obj+to-v] (the named person) must, should, or can: *Let each man decide for himself.* | *Let him do what he likes; I don't care.* | *Let there be no mistake about it.* | *Don't let me have to speak to you again.* | "Who shall I invite in place of Mary?" "Let me see (=I must think carefully about this) — what about Diana?" | (when suggesting a plan) "Let's (=Let us) have a party, shall we?" "No, let's not." | *Let's not quarrel!* (BrE) *Don't let's quarrel about it.* | **Let's face it** (= we have to admit), *we're going to be late.* | (fml) *When a priest invites the congregation to pray, he says "Let us pray".* —see USAGE 3 [(to, out)] esp. BrE || **rent** esp. AmE— to give the use of (a room, a building, land, etc.) in return for rent: *We're hoping to let our spare room (to a student).* | *The top floor of the house is let (out) to a young couple.* | *There's a "To Let" sign on the house next door.* —compare **LET OUT** (5); see HIRE¹ (USAGE) 4 [+obj+to-v] *fml* (in plans or calculations) to suppose for the purpose of argument: *Let the line AB be equal in length to the line XY.* 5 **let alone** (used for showing that the thing mentioned next is even less likely or believable than the one mentioned before): *The baby can't even walk, let alone run.* 6 **let drop/fall** to make (a remark, suggestion, etc.) known, as if by accident but really on purpose: *She let drop the fact that she was expecting a baby.* 7 **let go (of)** to stop holding: *Don't let go (of) the handle. Hold it tight and don't let go.* | *Let go! You're hurting my arm.* 8 **let it go at that** to take no further action 9 **let oneself go**: a to behave more freely and naturally than usual: *You should have seen the way he let himself go at the party, dancing on the table and singing!* b to take less care of one's appearance than usual: *Buy some new clothes and get your hair cut, my dear — you're letting yourself go these days.* 10 **let someone go**: a to set someone free; allow someone to escape b *euph* to dismiss someone from a job 11 **let someone/something alone** to leave someone/something alone (LEAVE¹) 12 **let someone/something be** to leave

someone/something unworried; not INTERFERE with: *Let him be, he's doing no harm.* | *I told him I'd tried to fix the typewriter but he said let it be till he got home.* —compare **leave someone/something be** (LEAVE¹) 13 **let well (enough) alone** to make no change to something that is satisfactory; end, so that the people attending can leave in case it is made worse rather than better —see also **let fly** (FLY¹), **let it all hang out** (HANG OUT), **let one's hair down** (HAIR), **let someone know** (KNOW¹), **let something pass** (PASS¹), **let something ride** (RIDE¹), **let something rip** (RIP¹), **let slip** (SLIP¹)

▷ **USAGE 1** **Let us** is usually shortened to **let's** in conversation when making a suggestion which includes the person you are speaking to: *Come on, Jim, let's dance!* Otherwise it must be **let us**: *Please sir, let us go now.* 2 The negative of **let's** is **let's not**. In British English *don't let's* is also possible: *Let's not waste time on this!* (BrE) *Don't let's waste time on this.* <

let down *phr v* [T] 1 (let sthg./sbdy. ↔ down) to cause or allow to go down; lower: *Let down a rope so that I can climb up.* 2 (let sthg. ↔ down) also **lengthen** AmE to make (clothes) longer: *I'm going to let down this old dress for my daughter.* 3 (let sbdy. down) to fail to do for (someone) what they could reasonably expect one to do because one is supposed to be loyal to them, has made a promise to them, etc.: *I'm counting on you to support me; don't let me down.* | *The singer we had engaged let us down at the last moment, so we had to find a quick replacement.* —see also **LETDOWN** 4 **let someone down lightly** to disappoint or give bad news to someone in a way that will not hurt their feelings too much

let sbdy./sthg. ↔ in *phr v* [T] 1 to allow or make it possible for (someone or something) to enter: *She opened the door and let me in.* | *This tent lets in the rain.* 2 to allow; admit: *This new evidence lets in the possibility of doubt.*

let sbdy. ↔ in for sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to cause to have or experience (something difficult or unpleasant): *When I agreed to help you, I didn't know what I was letting myself in for.*

let sbdy. ↔ in on sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to allow to share (a secret or something secret)

let sbdy./sthg. into sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to allow or make it possible for (someone or something) to enter: *I let myself into the flat with a spare key.* 2 to allow to join: *They won't let women into their club.* 3 to place into (another material) so as to be level with and form a pattern on its surface: *The iron decoration has been let into the brickwork.* 4 to allow (someone) to know; **LET in on**: *I'll let you into a little secret: I've never even been there.*

let sbdy./sthg. off (sthg.) *phr v* [T] 1 to excuse from (punishment, duty, etc.): *If you promise not to do it again, I'll let you off.* | *She let the boy off (doing) his music practice.* | *He was expected to go to prison, but the judge let him off with a fine.* | *In my opinion he was let off lightly.* (=given less severe treatment than he deserved) 2 to allow to leave (a vehicle): *The conductor wouldn't let me off (the bus) until I'd paid the fare.* 3 to fire or cause to explode: *Don't let that gun/those fireworks off indoors.*

let on *phr v* 1 [T] (let sbdy./sthg. on (sthg.)) to allow to get on (a vehicle): *The conductor wouldn't let me on (the bus) with this big parcel.* 2 [I;T obj] *infml* to tell a secret: *I think he knows more about it than he's prepared to let on.* | *Don't let on about the meeting.* [+that/wh-] *Don't let on that I told you/let on who told you.*

let out *phr v* 1 [T (of)] (let sbdy./sthg. ↔ out) to allow or make it possible for (someone or something) to leave: *They were let out of (=freed from) prison last week.* | *Someone's let the air out of this tyre.* 2 [T] (let out sthg.) to express loudly and violently: *He let out a cry of pain/a roar.* 3 [T] (let sthg. ↔ out) to make (clothes) wider: *Jack's put on so much weight that I've had to let out all his trousers.* —compare **TAKE in** (3) 4 [T] (let sthg. ↔ out) to allow (something) to become known: *News of the takeover bid was let out this morning.* [+that] *He accidentally let out that he hadn't been home for three weeks.* 5 [T] (let sthg. ↔ out) esp. BrE to give the use of (esp. vehicles or equipment) in return for payment —see HIRE¹ (USAGE) 6 [I] AmE to end, so that the people attending can leave: *When does school let out?* | *The movie lets out at 10 o'clock.* —see also **let the cat out of the bag** (CAT)

let up *phr v* [I] (esp. of something bad) to lessen or stop: *When will this rain let up?* —see also **LETUP**

let up on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T no pass.] *infml* to treat less severely: *You're always pressing her to work harder and do better; why don't you let up on her for a while?*

let² n *BrE* **1** an act of renting a house or flat to, or from, someone: *a long let* **2** a house or flat that is (to be) rented

let³ n **1** [C] (in tennis and similar games) a stroke that does not count and must be played again, esp. one in which a ball that has been served hits the top of the net on its way over **2** [U] *law* the act of preventing something from being done (esp. in the phrase **without let or hindrance**)

let-down /'letdaʊn/ *n infml* a disappointment: *We were going out today, but now it's raining so we can't; what a letdown!* —see also **LET DOWN** (3)

le-thal /'li:θəl/ *adj* (having the power of) causing death: *A hammer can be a lethal weapon. | a lethal dose of a drug | (fig.) That cocktail looks fairly lethal!* (=very strong in alcohol) —compare **MORTAL** (3) —*~ly adv*

leth-ar-gy /'leθədʒi/-ə-/ *n* [U] *fml*, often *derog* the state of being sleepy, unnaturally tired, or (too) inactive; lazy state of mind: *The heat of the afternoon and the heavy meal combined to create a feeling of lethargy. | The government was accused of lethargy.* —**gic** /lɪ'θɑ:dʒɪk/-ə-/ *adj* —**gically** /kli/ *adv*

Le-the /'li:θi/ [*the*] in GREEK MYTHOLOGY, a river in Hades which, if one drinks its water, produces forgetfulness

Let-ra-set /'letraset/ *n* [U] *tdmk* letters printed on a special sheet in such a way that they can be put onto paper or other surfaces by the use of pressure

let-ter /'letə/ *n* **1** [C] a written or printed message sent usu. in an envelope: *Could you post this letter for me when you go out? | I've had a letter from the tax inspector saying I owe him money. | I wrote her a letter last week, but I haven't received a reply yet. | the "letters to the Editor" column of the newspaper | Would you give me a letter of recommendation for my new employer?* **2** [C] any of the signs in writing or printing that represent a speech sound: *"B" is a capital letter; "b" is a small letter.* **3** [(the) S] the words of an agreement, law, rule, etc., rather than its real, intended, or general meaning: *Going by the (strict) letter of the law, you could be charged with obstruction, but the police have agreed to overlook it.* —opposite **spirit** **4 to the letter:** **a** with close attention to the written details of an agreement, law, etc. **b** to the fullest degree; exactly: *You must follow my instructions to the letter.* —see also **LETTERS**, **CHAIN LETTER**, **DEAD LETTER**, **OPEN LETTER**, **DEAR JOHN LETTER**

letter bomb /'..,./ *n* a small bomb hidden in an envelope and sent by post to the person it is supposed to kill or harm. They are usually sent by **TERRORIST** or similar organizations to important people.

let-ter-box /'letəbɒks/ || 'letəbɔ:k/ *esp. BrE* || usu. **mailbox** *AmE*—**n** **1** a narrow opening in a front door, or at the entrance to a building; a box for receiving things delivered, esp. letters brought by the postman: *Another bill dropped through the letterbox.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** **Letter boxes** are much more common in Britain than in the US, where it is more usual to have a **mailbox** somewhere near your front door which is an actual box with a closing lid. In Britain anyone may put anything through a **letterbox**; in the US it is illegal for anyone except the Postal Service to use your **mailbox** and only mail that carries your name and address may be delivered there. —compare **PILLAR BOX**, **POST BOX** ◀

2 a box in a post office, street, etc., in which letters can be posted or delivered; **POSTBOX**

letter car-ri-er /'..,./ *n* *AmE* for **POSTMAN**

let-tered /'letəd/-ərd/ *adj* *old-fash fml* (well) educated —opposite **unlettered**

let-ter-head /'letəhed/-ə-/ also **let-ter-head-ing** /-,hedɪŋ/—*n* the name and address of a person or business printed at the top of a sheet of writing paper

let-ter-ing /'letərɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** the art of writing or drawing letters or words: *Lettering is this designer's speciality.* **2** written or drawn letters, esp. of the stated style: *ornate old-fashioned lettering*

Let-ter-man /'letəmən/-tər-/ **David** (1947–) the host of an American television talk show shown late at night. He is known for having unusual guests and for funny parts of the show, such as "stupid pet tricks".

letter of cred-it /,..,./ *n* an official letter from a bank allowing a named person to take money from another bank, esp. in a foreign country

letter o-pen-er /'..,./ *n* *AmE* for **PAPER KNIFE**

letter-per-fect /,..,./ *adj* *AmE* for **WORD-PERFECT**

let-ter-press /'letəpres/-ər-/ *n* [U] a method of printing in which the words, pictures, etc., to be printed form a raised area on the printing machine

letter-qual-i-ty /'..,./ *adj* (of a printer, producing characters of a quality) good enough to be used in sending business letters

let-ters /'letəz/-ərz/ *n* [P] *fml* or *pomp* literature in general: *He was one of the foremost figures of English letters at the turn of the century.* —see also **MAN OF LETTERS**

letter-size /'..,./ also **letter**—*adj* *AmE* (of paper) having a size of 8 by 11 inches: *Have this printed on letter-size sheets.*

let-ting /'letɪŋ/ *n* *esp. BrE* a house or flat that is (to be) rented: *unfurnished lettings*

let-tuce /'letʃs/ *n* [C;U] a usu. round vegetable with thin pale green leaves, used raw in **SALADS** —compare **CABBAGE**, and see picture at **VEGETABLE**

let-up /'letʌp/ *n* [C;U] (a) stopping or lessening of activity: *It rained for twelve hours without (a) letup.* —see also **LET up**

leu-co-cyte, **leuko-** /'lu:kəsait/ *n* *med* for **WHITE BLOOD CELL** (=disease-fighting cell in the blood)

leu-cot-o-my /lu:'kɒtəmi/-'kɑ:/ *n* *BrE* for **LOBOTOMY**

leu-ke-mia also **-kae-** *BrE* /lu:'kɪmiə/ *n* [U] a serious disease (a kind of **CANCER**) in which the blood contains too many white cells, causing weakness and sometimes death

Le-vant /lə'vent/ [*the*] the former name for the land to the east of the Mediterranean Sea, including Syria, Lebanon, and Israel —**-ine** /'levəntaɪn/ *adj, n*: *Levantine customs*

lev-ee¹ /'levi/ *n* *esp. AmE* a bank built to stop a river overflowing

levee² /'levi, lə'veɪ/ *n* *old use* a meeting in which a ruler receives visits from important people

lev-el¹ /'levəl/ *adj* **1** having a surface which is flat and smooth; not sloping; **HORIZONTAL**: *A football field needs to be level. | a level spoonful of sugar* **2** [F (with)] equal in height or standard: *The child's head is level with his father's knee. | The two teams finished level at ten points each.* **3** steady and unvarying: *He gave me a level look. | a calm level voice* **4 one's level best** *infml* one's best effort: *I did my level best* (=tried as hard as possible) *to help him.*

level² n **1** [C;U] a line or surface parallel to the ground; a position of height in relation to a flat surface: *The garden is arranged on two levels.* (=it has two parts, one higher than the other) | *an accident on level three of the mine | The top of this mountain is six kilometres above sea level. | an eye-level grill* (=equal with the height of a person's eyes) | (fig.) *The matter is being considered at ministerial level.* (=by important politicians) | (fig.) *high-level/top-level discussions* —see also **WATER LEVEL** **2** [C] a general standard of quality or quantity: *a high level of achievement | The level of your work is not satisfactory. | We must increase production levels. | High levels of radiation were found in the sea nearby.* **3** [C] also **levels pl.**—a smooth flat surface, esp. a wide area of flat ground: *You should build on the level, not on the slope. | the Somerset Levels* **4** [C] *esp. AmE* for **SPIRIT LEVEL** **5 on the level** *infml* honest; truthful: *Is what you're telling me on the level? | Are you on the level?* —see also **LEVEL with**; **A LEVEL**; **O LEVEL**

level³ v **-ll-** *BrE* || **-l-** *AmE* [T] **1** [(OUT, OFF)] to make flat and even: *She levelled off the wet concrete with a piece of wood.* **2** to knock or pull down to the ground: *The bombing raid practically levelled the town.*

level sthg. at sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to aim (a weapon) at **2** [often pass.] also **level sthg. against sbdy./sthg.**—to bring (a charge) against: *Serious accusations have been levelled against the minister.*

level off/out *phr v* [I] to stop climbing higher or falling lower, and continue at a fixed height: *The plane levelled off at 30,000 feet. | (fig.) Inflation has begun to level off. | (fig.) We expect the differences in their educational attainment to gradually level out.*

level with sbdy. *phr v* [T] *informal* to speak freely and truthfully to; not hide facts from — see also **on the level** (LEVEL²)

level⁴ *adv* [(with)] so as to be level: *a missile that flies level with (=close to) the ground*

level cross-ing /,lɪvəl ˈkrɒsɪŋ/ *BrE* || **grade crossing** *AmE*— *n* a place where a road and a railway cross each other, usu. protected by gates that shut off the road while a train passes

level-head-ed /,lɪvəl ˈhɛdɪd/ *adj* *apprec* calm and sensible in making judgments

lev-el-ler *BrE* || **-eler** *AmE* /ˈlevələ/ *n* *esp. old use* a member of a political group that wishes to get rid of all social differences

Lev-el-lers /ˈlevəlɪz/ || **-lərz** / [the +P] a religious and political group which began during the English Civil War and demanded equal legal rights and freedom of worship for all people

level peg-ging /,lɪvəl ˈpɛɡɪŋ/ *adv* *BrE* equal, neither ahead of nor behind a competitor: *It's level pegging between the two candidates, either of them could win.*

level play-ing-field /,lɪvəl ˈpleɪɪŋ fi:ld/ *n* [usu. S] a situation in which no one has any unfair advantage: *If we know their secrets and they know ours, at least we're competing on a level playing-field.*

le-ver¹ /ˈli:və/ || **'le-**, **'liz-** *n* **1** a bar or other strong tool used for lifting or moving something heavy or stiff. One end is placed under or against the object, the middle rests on a FULCRUM, and the other end is pushed down strongly: (fig.) *They used the threat of strike action as a lever (=a strong influence) to get the employers to agree to their demands.* **2** a bar or rod that is fixed to a machine at one end and is moved to work the machine; a handle: *Push the lever and the machine will start.* — see also GEAR LEVER and see picture at TYPEWRITER

lever² *v* [T+obj+adv/prep] to move (something) with a lever: *They levered it into position.* | (fig.) *They're trying to lever him out of his job as head of the firm.*

le-ver-age /ˈli:vərɪdʒ/ || **'le-**, **'liz-** *n* [U] **1** the action, power, or use of a lever: *We'll have to use leverage to move this huge rock.* **2** influence over someone else, esp. of an unofficial or irregular kind: *She used political leverage to get that top job.*

le-ver-aged buy-out /,li:vərɪdʒd ˈbaɪaʊt/ || **'le-**, **'liz-** *n* the TAKEOVER of a company, esp. by its management, using borrowed money, in the hope or expectation that the interest on the borrowings can be paid out of the profit on the company bought

lev-e-ret /ˈlevərɪt/ *n* a young HARE

le-vi-a-than /lɪˈvaɪəθən/ *n* **1** (in the Bible) a very large and frightening sea animal **2** *lit or pomp* something very large and strong, esp. a large ship or a WHALE (=a large sea animal)

Le-vis /ˈli:vɪz/ *n* [P] *tdmk* a popular and fashionable kind of JEANS: *a pair of Levis* | *Do you stock Levis?*

lev-i-tate /ˈlevɪteɪt/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) rise and float in the air as if by magic. Some MAGICIANS make people appear to levitate as a trick. Some MYSTICS claim that they can really levitate themselves or others, although many people do not believe them. — **-tation** /ˈlevɪˈteɪʃən/ *n* [U]

lev-i-ty /ˈlevɪti/ *n* [U] *fml or pomp* lack of respect for serious matters; lack of seriousness: *This is no time for levity — we have important matters to discuss.*

lev-y¹ /ˈlevi/ *v* [T (on, upon)] to demand and collect officially: *to levy a tax on tobacco*

levy² *n* an official demand and collection, esp. of a tax: *import levies*

lewd /lu:d/ *adj* *derog* **1** wanting, thinking about, or suggesting thoughts of sex, esp. in a way that is not socially acceptable: *He gave her a lewd wink.* **2** rude; OBSCENE: *lewd songs* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

Lew-es /ˈlu:z/ a town in E Sussex, England, where the local government for that COUNTY is based

Lew-is¹ /ˈlu:z/, **Carl** /kɑ:l || kɑ:rl/ (1961–) an American ATHLETE who won GOLD MEDALS for the LONG JUMP in the 1984 and 1992 Olympic Games, and also for the 4 x 100m relay in the 1992 Olympic Games.

Lewis², C S (1898–1963) an English writer, known for his children's, religious and adult LITERARY works, esp. *The*

Allegory of Love and the *Chronicles of Narnia* — see also NARNIA

Lewis³, Jerry (1926–) an American COMEDIAN on television and in films. He made many films with Dean MARTIN. He is known for seeming to be very stupid and silly. Lewis has also done a lot of work raising money for an organization that helps children who are ill.

Lewis⁴, Sinclair (1885–1951) an American writer of FICTION, whose books, including *Main Street* and *Elmer Gantry*, examined social problems of his time

Lewis and Clark /,li:vəl ˈkɹɑ:k/ *n* [P] the EXPLORERS Meriwether

Lewis (1774–1809) and William Clark who travelled all over the recently bought LOUISIANA PURCHASE from 1804 to 1806, going up the Missouri River and over the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific coast of America. They recorded what they found and saw.

Lew-i-sham /ˈlu:ʃəm/ an inner London BOROUGH S of the river Thames. It is a mainly WORKING-CLASS area.

lex-i-cal /ˈleksɪkəl/ *adj* *tech* of or about words — **~ly** /kli/ *adv*

lex-i-cog-ra-phy /ˌleksɪˈkɒgrəfi/ || **'kɑ:-** *n* [U] the writing and making of dictionaries — **-pher** *n*

lex-i-col-o-gy /ˌleksɪˈkɒlədʒi/ || **'kɑ:-** *n* [U] *tech* the study of the meaning and uses of words

lex-i-con /ˈleksɪkən/ || **-kən**, **-kən** *n* **1** a dictionary **2** a list of words with their meanings **2** *tech* all the words and phrases used in a particular language

Lex-ing-ton /ˈleksɪŋtən/ a city in N central Kentucky, US known for producing THOROUGHBRED horses and for its university

lex-is /ˈleksɪs/ *n* [U] *tech* all the words that belong to a particular subject or language, or that a particular person knows — compare VOCABULARY

Ley-land /ˈleɪlənd/ a British company that makes lorries (LORRY) and buses

ley line /ˈleɪ laɪn, ˈli:-/ *n* *BrE* a set of easily recognizable objects e.g. churches, wells, etc. following a line thought to be the line of an ancient track. Some people believe ley lines also follow lines of ENERGY.

li-a-bil-i-ty /ˌlaɪəˈbɪlɪti/ *n* **1** [U (for, to)] the condition of being liable: *The new law exempts them from all liability in these matters.* | *Taking extra vitamins may reduce your liability to colds.* **2** [C] something for which one is responsible, esp. by law: *A child is its parents' liability.* **3** [C] also **liabilities** *pl.* — *tech* the amount of debt that must be paid: *If your liabilities exceed your assets, you may go bankrupt.* — compare ASSET (1); see also CURRENT LIABILITIES, LIMITED LIABILITY **4** [C] *informal* someone or something that limits one's activities or freedom: *This old car's a real liability; I can't use it but I have to pay for somewhere to keep it.* — compare ASSET (2)

li-a-ble /ˌlaɪəbəl/ *adj* **1** [F+to-v] likely, esp. from habit or tendency: *He's liable to shout when he gets angry.* | *Be careful, the car is liable to overheat.* **2** [F+to] often suffering (from): *This part of town is liable to flooding.* **3** [F (for)] (legally) responsible for paying (for something): *He declared that he was not liable (for his wife's debts).* **4** [F+to] likely to be legally punished (with): *People who walk on the grass are liable to a fine of £5.*

▷ USAGE Compare **liable** and **likely**. **Liable** is used when talking about general characteristics: *The river is liable to flood in the winter.* | *This kind of cloth is liable to tear very easily.* **Likely** is used when you think there is a possibility on a particular occasion that something will happen: *The bus is likely to be late today because of the bad weather.* ◁

li-aise /liˈeɪz/ *v* [I (with)] *BrE* (esp. in the army or in business) to make, have, or keep a connection, esp. so that information can be passed: *My job is to liaise with foreign clients.*

li-ai-son /liˈeɪzən/ || **'li:əzən**, **liˈeɪ-** *n* [(with, between)] **1**

Carl Lewis



[S;U] a working association or connection, esp. so that each side is well informed about what the other is doing: *close liaison between the army and the police* | *a liaison officer* **2** [C] *euph* a sexual relationship between a man and a woman not married to each other

li-a-na /li'ɑ:nə, li'ænə/ *n* (a long climbing stem of) a woody tropical plant that climbs round trees, up walls, etc.

li-ar /'laɪə/ *n* a person who tells lies

lib /lɪb/ *n* [U] *infml*, *becoming old-fash* (a movement for) social equality and the removal of disadvantages suffered by particular social groups (esp. in the phrases **women's lib**, **gay lib**) — **~ber** *n usu derog*: *The women's libbers are trying to get into this men's club.*

Lib *n, adj BrE* LIBERAL (PARTY)

li-ba-tion /laɪ'beɪʃən/ *n* **1** an offering of wine to a god, esp. in ancient Greece and Rome **2** *pomp or humor* a drink of wine or other alcohol

Lib Dem /lɪb 'dem/ *BrE infml* for LIBERAL DEMOCRAT: *a Lib Dem candidate*

Lib Dems /lɪb 'dem/ *n* [P] *infml* LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

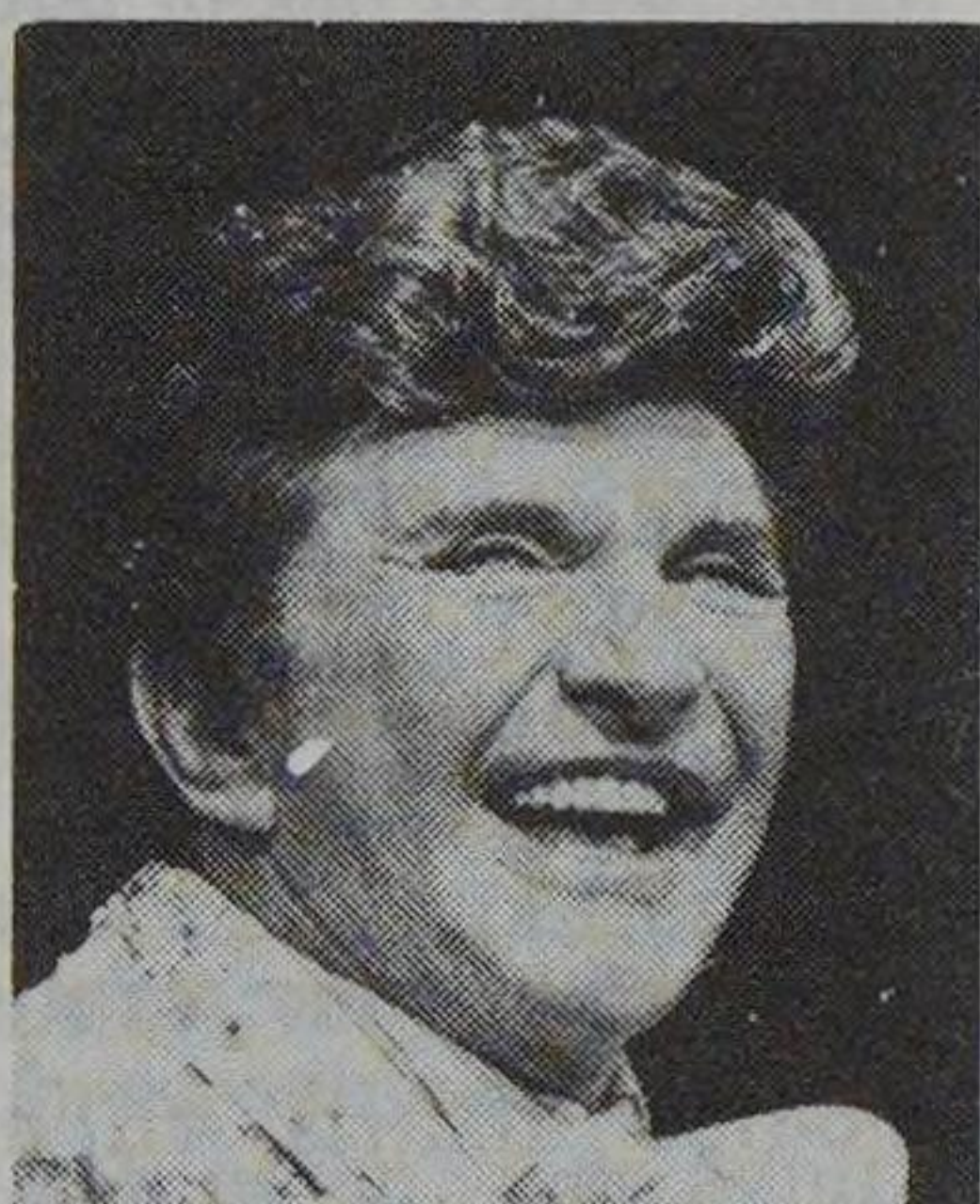
li-bel /'laɪbəl/ *n* **1** [C (on)] *law* a printed or written statement that says unfairly bad things about a person and may make others have a low opinion of him or her. Libel usually concerns famous people who may then go to court to clear their name. **2** [U] the making of such a libel: *The politician is suing the magazine for libel.* | *a libel action* — compare SLANDER **3** [C (on)] *infml* an unfair or untrue remark, description of someone, etc.: *a libel on my character*

libel ² *v -ll- BrE || -l- AmE* [T] to make a libel against; DEFAME: *He claims he has been libelled in the press.*

li-bel-lous *BrE || -belous AmE* /'laɪbələs/ *adj* being or containing a libel: *a libellous allegation* — **~ly** *adv*

Lib-e-ra-ce /lɪbə'reɪʃi/ (1919–87) an American musician who played popular piano tunes in his own television SERIES, in which the decorations and his dress were both highly exaggerated (EXAGGERATE) in their richness. He always played with a CANDELABRUM (= a branched candle holder) on his piano.

Liberace



lib-e-ral /'lɪbəərəl/ *adj* **1** willing to understand and respect the ideas and feelings of others: *a liberal mind/thinker* | *a liberal-minded person* **2** supporting or allowing some change, e.g. in political or religious affairs: *The church has become more liberal in this century.* | *a liberal foreign policy* — compare REACTIONARY **3** encouraging or leading to a wide general knowledge, wide possibilities for self-expression, and respect for other people's opinions: *a liberal education* **4** giving freely and generously: *a liberal supporter of the hospital* **5** given freely; large: *a liberal supply of drinks* **6** neither close nor very exact: *a liberal interpretation of a rule* — **~ly** *adv*

liberal ² *n* a person with liberal opinions or principles

Liberal *n, adj* in Britain, (a person) supporting or belonging to the former Liberal Party or the Liberal Democrats.

liberal arts /lɪ... 'ɑ:/ *n* [P] *esp. AmE* the areas of learning which develop the ability to think and reason, as well as general knowledge, rather than technical skills which prepare one for a particular job. The liberal arts include PHILOSOPHY, languages, literature, history, MATHEMATICS, and science. — compare LIBERAL STUDIES and see also HUMANITIES

Liberal Dem-o-crat /lɪ... 'dem/ also **Lib Dem** *infml* — *n* a member of the Liberal Democrats

Liberal Dem-o-crats /lɪ... 'dem/ also **Lib Dems** *infml* — **Social and Liberal Democrats** *fml n* [the +P] a British political party of the centre formed in 1988 from the LIBERAL PARTY and the SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. It is the third largest party, but it is quite small.

lib-e-ral-is-m /'lɪbəərəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] (*sometimes cap.*) liberal opinions or principles, esp. with regard to social and political matters

lib-e-ral-i-ty /lɪbə'reɪlɪti/ *n* **1** [U] also **lib-e-ral-ness** /'lɪbə'reɪlnəs/ — *fml* a generosity **b** respect for other people's opinions **2** [C] *old use* a gift given generously

lib-e-ral-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'lɪbə'reɪlaɪz/ *v* [T] to make liberal or more liberal, esp. by the removal of limits on freedom: *The divorce laws have been liberalized in recent years.* — **-ization** /lɪbə'reɪlaɪ'zeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

Liberal Par-ty /lɪ... 'ɑ:/ [the] **1** a political party that favours liberalism **2** a British political party which held power for many years in the 19th and early 20th centuries. With the rise of the Labour Party it lost much of its support — see also LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

liberal stud-ies /lɪ... 'ɑ:/ *n* [P] *esp. BrE* subjects that are taught in order to increase general knowledge and the ability to write, speak, and study more effectively, esp. when taught to older students in addition to their main subjects — compare LIBERAL ARTS

lib-e-rate /'lɪbəreɪt/ *v* **1** [T (from)] *fml* to set free (from control, prison, duty, etc.): *The new government has liberated all political prisoners.* **2** *sl, esp. AmE* to steal — **-rator** *n* — **-ration** /lɪbə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U]

lib-e-rat-ed /'lɪbəreɪtɪd/ *adj* **1** having or showing freedom of action in social and sexual matters: *a liberated woman* | *liberated attitudes* **2** (of an area or country) freed from OCCUPATION of a foreign army or government: *liberated Kuwait*

liberation the-ol-o-gy /lɪ... 'ɑ:/ *n* [U] religious teaching, esp. in Roman Catholic countries in South America, which places special importance on the need to improve people's social conditions and give them political freedom

Li-be-ri-a /laɪ'berɪə/ a country in W Africa on the Atlantic Ocean, bordered by Guinea; capital Monrovia; population 2,508,000 (1989) — **-rian** *adj, n*

lib-er-tar-i-an /lɪbə'teəriən/ *n* a person who believes that people should be free to express their opinions, to have whatever religion they wish, etc. — **libertarian** *adj*

lib-er-tine /'lɪbəti:n/ *n* a person who leads an unusual or immoral life, esp. one who continually looks for pleasure

lib-er-ty /'lɪbəti/ *n* **1** [U] *esp. lit* the state of being free from conditions that limit one's actions, so that one can do what one likes without the permission of others; freedom: *The tyrant's oppressed subjects cry out for their liberty.* | *prisoners dreaming of liberty* (= of being set free from prison) — compare FREEDOM **2** [C;U] *fml* the right or permission to do or use something **3** [S] too much freedom in speech or behaviour, taken without permission and sometimes regarded as rude: (*fml*) (used to say sorry or as an excuse) *I took the liberty of reading this letter, even though it was addressed to you.* | (*BrE infml*) "Whenever he needs a car he just takes mine, without asking whether I mind." "What a liberty!" **4** *at liberty*: a free from prison, control, etc. **b** *fml* having permission or the right (to do something): *I'm afraid I am not at liberty to discuss this matter.* **5** *liberty, equality, fraternity* a phrase used during the French Revolution **6** *take liberties (with)*: **a** to behave in a rude, too friendly way (towards someone, esp. a woman) **b** to make unreasonable changes in (a piece of writing, history, etc.): *He may not tell lies, but he does often take liberties with the truth.* (= say things that are not completely true) — see also CIVIL LIBERTY, STATUE OF LIBERTY

Liberty the National Council for Civil Liberties; an independent British organization which aims to defend and increase the rights of INDIVIDUAL citizens

Liberty Bell /lɪ... 'ɑ:/ [the] a historic bell kept in Philadelphia, US. It was rung in 1776 to tell people of the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain and the founding (FOUND² (1)) of the United States. — see also AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Liberty Is-land /lɪ... 'ɑ:/ the small island in New York Harbor where the Statue of Liberty stands — see colour map on page 1376

Lib-er-ty's /'lɪbəti:z/ *n* also **Liberty** — a department store established in 1875 to sell goods from the Far and Near East. It has branches in many cities in Britain. It is known esp. for its beautiful materials: *a Liberty fabric/pattern/design*

liberty ship /lɪ... 'ɑ:/ one of a large number of PREFABRICATED ships for carrying goods built in the US during the Second World War

li-bid-i-nous /lɪˈbɪdɪnəs/ *adj fml or tech* having or showing strong sexual desires — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

li-bi-do /lɪˈbɪdəʊ/ *n -dos tech* (esp. in FREUDIAN PSYCHOLOGY)
1 the sexual urge **2** the strong force of life in a person

Lib-Lab pact /lɪˈlɒb ˈpækt/ [*the*] an arrangement made in 1977 in Britain, by David Steel of the Liberal Party and James Callaghan's Labour government, in which the Liberals gave support to the government in exchange for certain rights

Li-bra /ˈliːbrə/ *n* **1** [U] the seventh sign of the ZODIAC, represented by a pair of scales **2** [C] a person born between September 23 and October 22 — see ZODIAC (USAGE) and see picture at ZODIAC

li-brar-i-an /laɪˈbreəriən/ *n* a person who is in charge of or helps to run a library — **~ship** *n* [U]

li-bra-ry /ˈlaɪbrəri, -bri||-breri/ *n* **1** a room or building containing books that can be looked at or borrowed by members of the public or by members of the group or organization that owns the library: *a public library* | *a college library* | *a reference library* | *Is that a library book or is it your own copy?* — compare BOOKSHOP **2** a collection of books, records, etc. **3** a set of books, records, etc., that are produced by the same company and have the same general appearance: *a library of modern classics issued by a well-known publisher* — see also RECORD LIBRARY, LENDING LIBRARY

Library of Con-gress /lɪˈbrəri ˈkɒŋɡrɛs/ [*the*] the largest LIBRARY in the US, in Washington DC. It is supported by the government and is open to the public. It keeps a copy of all written material that is copyrighted (COPYRIGHT) in the US.

library pic-tures /lɪˈbrəri ˈpɪktʃəz/ *BrE* || *file footage AmE* — *n* [P] pictures shown esp. during a television news programme, which were made at a previous time and do not show the actual events mentioned in the programme. When such pictures are shown on television, the words “library pictures” are shown at the bottom of the SCREEN¹ (4)

li-bret-tist /lɪˈbretɪst/ *n* the writer of a libretto

li-bret-to /lɪˈbretəʊ/ *n -tos* the words of a musical play, such as an OPERA or ORATORIO: *the libretto of Mozart's “Marriage of Figaro”* — compare BOOK¹ (5)

Lib-y-a /ˈlɪbiə/ an oil producing country in N Africa on the Mediterranean Sea; capital Tripoli; population 4,385,000 (1989). — **Libyan** *n, adj*

lice /laɪs/ *pl. of* LOUSE

li-cence *usu. -cense AmE* /ˈlaɪsəns/ *n* **1** [C] an official paper, card, etc., showing that permission has been given to do something, *usu.* in return for a fixed payment and sometimes after a test: *a dog licence* | *a driving licence* | *a licence fee* [+to-v] *a licence to sell alcohol* | (fig.) *This government seems to think it has a licence to print money!* — see also SPECIAL LICENCE **2** [U] official permission to do something: *We manufacture these goods under licence from (=with the permission of) the original makers.* **3** [U] *fml* a freedom of action, speech, thought, etc.: *demands that they should be allowed greater licence in the exercise of their power* **b** *derog* uncontrolled freedom that causes harm or damage: *I'm in favour of liberty, of course — but against licence.* **4** [U] the freedom claimed by a painter, writer, etc., to change the facts of the real world in producing a work of art — see also POETIC LICENCE

li-cense ² also **-cense** *AmE* /ˈlaɪsəns/ *v* [T] to give official permission to or for: *licensing the sale of alcohol* [+obj+to-v] *He is licensed to sell alcohol.*

li-censed, **-cenced** /ˈlaɪsənst/ *adj BrE* having a licence, esp. to sell alcoholic drinks: *a licensed restaurant*

licensed prac-ti-cal nurse /lɪˈsənst ˈpræktɪkəl nɜːs/ *n* also **licensed vo-cation-al nurse** /lɪˈsənst ˈvəʊʃənəl nɜːs/, LPN, LVN— (in the US) a trained person officially allowed to practise most of the duties of a nurse

licensed vict-ual-ler /lɪˈsənst ˈvɪktʃuəlɪə/ *n BrE tech* a keeper of a shop or pub who is allowed to sell alcoholic drink

li-cen-see /ˈlaɪsənˈsiː/ *n* a person to whom official permission is given, esp. to sell alcoholic drinks or tobacco

license plate /ˈlɪsəns ˈpleɪt/ *n AmE* for NUMBERPLATE

► **CULTURAL NOTE License plates** in the US show where a car is from because each state makes its own. In Britain, **number plates** are associated with a particular car and stay with the car; in some states of the US, **license plates** are associated with a car owner. When the owner sells the

car he/she can keep the plates and can later put them on another car. — see also VANITY PLATES and see picture at CAR ◀

licensing hours /lɪˈsənsɪŋ ˈaʊəz/ *n* [P] the hours during which it is legal to sell alcohol in Britain

licensing laws /lɪˈsənsɪŋ ˈlɔːz/ *n* [P] *BrE* the laws that limit the sale of alcoholic drinks to certain times and places

li-cen-ti-ate /laɪˈsenʃɪət/ *n tech* **1** [(of)] a person given official permission, esp. by a university, to practise a particular art or profession: *a licentiate of the Royal College of Music* **2** a (written) declaration that this permission has been given

li-cen-tious /laɪˈsenʃəs/ *adj fml derog* behaving in a sexually uncontrolled way — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

li-chen /ˈlɪkən, ˈlɪtʃən/ *n* [U] a dry-looking greyish, greenish, or yellowish flat spreading plant that covers the surfaces of stones and trees — compare MOSS

lick¹ /lɪk/ *v* **1** [T] to move the tongue across the surface of (something) in order to make it wet, eat it, clean it, etc.: *to lick a postage stamp* | *to lick an ice cream* | *The dog licked the dish clean.* **2** [T (UP)] to drink by taking up with quick movements of the tongue: *The cat licked (up) the milk from its bowl.* **3** [I (against); T] (esp. of flames or waves) to pass lightly or with quick movements over or against the surface of (something): *The flames licked (against) the building.* **4** [T] *infml* to defeat in a game, race, fight, etc.: (fig.) *I think we've finally got the problem licked.* **5** *lick one's lips* to experience pleasure at the thought of something good that is going to happen to one **6** *lick one's wounds* to go away after a defeat feeling sorry for oneself but perhaps preparing to come back to make a new effort **7** *lick someone's boots* to obey someone like a slave, through fear, admiration, or desire for favour — see also **lick into shape** (SHAPE¹)

lick² *n* **1** [C *usu. sing.*] an act of licking **2** [C (of)] *infml* a small amount (of a cleaning material, paint, etc.): *This door needs a lick of paint.* **3** [S] *infml, esp. BrE* (fast) speed: *running down the hill at quite a lick (=fast)* **4** *a lick and a promise* a *BrE old-fash infml* a quick careless wash or clean **b** *AmE* (of a job or duty) an incomplete or hurried performance, *usu.* with the intention of doing it better later: *I gave the piano a lick and a promise this morning but I'm really going to practise this weekend.* — see also SALTICK

lick-e-ty-split /lɪkɪti ˈsplɪt/ *adv AmE* very fast; at high speed: *He was running lickety-split down the road.*

lick-ing /ˈlɪkɪŋ/ *n old-fash infml* **1** a severe beating **2** a defeat: *The other team gave us quite a licking.*

lic-o-ri-ce /ˈlɪkərɪs, -rɪʃ/ *n* [U] LIQUORICE

lid /lɪd/ *n* **1** a cover for the open top of a pot, box, or other container that can be lifted up or removed **2** an EYELID **3** *put the (tin) lid on infml* to ruin or put an end to (an activity, a person's hopes, etc.), esp. by being the last in a set of misfortunes **4** *take the lid off* to make known the unpleasant truth about (something); EXPOSE: *a film that takes the lid off the world of organized crime*

li-do /ˈlɪdəʊ, ˈlaɪ-|| ˈliːdəʊ/ *n -dos esp. BrE* an outdoor public swimming bath, a special part of a BEACH, or the edge of a lake used for swimming and lying in the sun, with changing rooms and places to get food and drink. Many lidos were built in Britain in the 1930s, but now people prefer heated pools indoors.

lie¹ /laɪ/ *v* **lay** /leɪ/, **lain** /leɪn/, *present participle lying* /ˈlaɪ-ɪŋ/ **1** [I+adj/adv/prep] to be or remain in a flat position on a surface: *They just lie on the beach all day.* | *Don't move: just lie still.* | *There was a book lying on the table.* | *He lay on the floor reading a book.* | *Father is lying down (=resting on a bed) for a while.* **2** [I+adv/prep, esp. DOWN] to put one's body into such a position: *The doctor told me to go and lie (down) on the bed.* **3** [I+adv/prep; L+adj] to be, remain, or be kept in the stated condition: *The criminals were lying in wait for (=hiding in order to attack) their victim.* | *The village lay in ruins after the war.* | *The machinery was lying idle (=not being used) because of the strike.* | *Where do your best interests lie?* | *The final decision lies with the minister.* (=The minister must make the final decision.) | *We're trying to establish where the responsibility lies.* (=find out who is responsible) **4** [I+adv/prep] to be in the stated place, position, or direction: *The town lies about two miles to the east of us.* | *Liverpool are lying third (=are in third position) in the football*

championship. | (fig.) *The truth lies somewhere between these two statements.* | (fig.) *The future lies before us.* **5** [I+adv/prep] *old use* to stay, e.g. with friends or at a hotel **6 lie heavy/heavily on** to have an uncomfortable effect on: *guilt lying heavy on one's conscience* **7 lie in state** (of the dead body of an important person) to be placed in a public place so that people may honour it **8 lie low** to hide so as to avoid being discovered —see LAY² (USAGE)

lie about/around *phr v* [I] *derog* to spend one's time lazily, doing nothing —see also LAYABOUT

lie behind sthg. *phr v* [T no pass.] to be the (hidden) reason or explanation for: *What lies behind her reluctance to speak?*

lie down *phr v* [I] **1 lie down on the job** to do work that is not good enough in quantity or quality **2 take something lying down** to suffer something bad without complaining or trying to stop it: *You mustn't take his rudeness lying down.* —see also LIE¹ (2), LIE-DOWN

lie in *phr v* [I] *esp. BrE* to stay in bed late in the morning —see also LIE-IN, LYING-IN

lie off (sthg.) *phr v* [I;T no pass.] *tech* (of a ship) to keep a short way from (the shore or another ship): *The fleet lay off (the coast).*

lie to *phr v* [I] *tech* (of a ship) to be still or almost still while facing the wind —compare LAY to

lie up *phr v* [I] **1** to stay in bed, esp. for a long period **2 esp. BrE** to stay in hiding or avoid being noticed

lie with sbdy. *phr v* [T] *old use or bibl* to have sex with

lie² n [usu. sing.] **1** the way or position in which something lies, esp., in GOLF, the position in which the ball lies on the grass: *I had a terrible lie, amongst some long grass.* **2 the lie of the land** *BrE* || **the lay of the land** *AmE* —a the appearance, slope, etc., of an area of land **b** the state of affairs at a particular time

lie³ v **lied**; *present participle lying* **1** [I] to make an untrue statement in order to deceive; tell a lie: *He said he'd never been there, but he was lying.* | *She lied (to them) about her age in order to get the job.* **2** [T+obj+adv/prep] to put into a particular condition by telling lies: *He lied himself out of trouble.* **3** [I] to have a misleading appearance: *Figures can lie when statistics are misused.* **4 lie in/through one's teeth** *infml* to tell a bad lie shamelessly —see also LIAR, lies, damned lies and statistics (STATISTICS)

lie⁴ n **1** an untrue statement purposely made to deceive: *to tell lies* | *a barefaced lie* | *an outright lie* | *She said she loved me, but it was all lies/all a lie.* (=it was untrue) | *Their explanation sounded convincing, but it was just a pack of lies/a tissue of lies.* (=it was completely untrue) **2 father, I cannot tell a lie** a phrase which is believed to have been used by George Washington when admitting to his father that he had cut down a CHERRY tree —see also George WASHINGTON **3 BrE give the lie to** to show that (something) is untrue: *These figures give the lie to the government's claims!* —see also WHITE LIE

lieb-frau-milch /'li:bfraumilf, 'li:z-p-, -milk/ *n* [U;C] (often cap.) (a variety of) a popular German white wine

Liech-ten-stein /'liktənstain/ a very small country between Austria and Switzerland; capital Vaduz; population 28,000 (1989). Many foreign companies have their head offices there because taxes are low and the banks keep companies' affairs secret. — ~er *n*

lie-der /'li:də/ *n* [U;P] German songs for one voice and piano, esp. 19th-century settings of poems to music

lie de-tec-tor /'li:·, ·-·/ also **polygraph** *tech* — *n* an instrument that is supposed to show when a person is telling lies: *Some civil servants were forced to take lie detector tests.*

lie-down /'li:·, ·-·/ *n* *BrE infml* a short rest, usu. on a bed: *I'm just going upstairs for a lie-down.* —see also LIE¹ (2)

lief /li:f/ *adv* *old use or lit* willingly; gladly: *I would as lief go as stay.*

liege /li:dʒ/ *n* *old use* **1** also **liege lord** /, ·-·/ — a lord or ruler to whom others must give loyalty and service **2** also **liege man** /, ·-·/ — a man or servant who must give loyalty and service to his lord

lie-in /'li:·, ·-·/ *n* *infml, esp. BrE* a stay in bed later than usual in the morning —see also LIE in

lien /li:ən/ *n* [(on)] *law* the legal right to keep possession of something belonging to someone who owes money, until the debt has been paid: *The court granted me a lien on my debtor's property.*

lieu /lju:, lu: || lu:/ *n* **in lieu (of)** instead (of): *The company offered us time off in lieu (of extra payment).*

lieu-ten-ant /lef'tenənt || lu:'ten-/ *n* *written abbrev. Lt.* **1** an officer of low rank —see TABLE 3 **2 (in comb.)** an officer or official with the rank next below the one stated: *a lieutenant colonel* | *the Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York* **3** a person who acts for, or in place of, someone in a higher position; DEPUTY —see also FLIGHT LIEUTENANT and see picture at RANK

life /laɪf/ *n* **lives** /laɪvz/ **1** [U] the active force in animals and plants that makes them different from all other forms of matter, such as stones or machines or dead bodies: *The plant may recover; it's very dry and withered, but there's still life in it.* | *a life-sciences course at university* (=studying BIOLOGY, ZOOLOGY, etc.) | *Life began on Earth millions of years ago.* **2** [U] matter in which this force is present and which can grow, produce new forms, etc.: *There is no life on the moon.* | *There is little plant life in the desert.* **3** [C;U] the state or condition of being alive: *Once someone has died, they cannot be brought back to life.* | *Hurry, doctor! It's a matter of life and death.* | *Hundreds of lives were lost/Hundreds of people lost their lives* (=died) *in the floods.* | **Run for your lives!** (=Run away fast) *He's got a gun!* —compare DEATH (2) **4** [U] (the typical qualities of) human existence: *Life isn't all fun.* | *Life is full of surprises.* | *The story is very true to life.* (=represents life as it really is) —see also FACTS OF LIFE **5** [C;U] the period between birth and death, between birth and the present time, or between the present time and death: *to devote one's life to science* | *She's had a hard life.* | *I have lived all my life in England, but I'm going to spend the rest of my life abroad.* | *Since an early age he'd led a life of crime.* (=been a criminal) | *She got married quite late in life.* **6** [C] the period for which a machine, organization, etc., will work or last: *during the life of the present parliament* **7** [C;U] a a stated manner or type of existence: *country life* | *How are you enjoying married life?* **b** a stated part of one's existence: *her working life* | *my private life* | *the sex life of the frog* | *What do you think will happen in the life to come?* (=the supposed existence after life on earth) **8** [U] existence as a collection of widely different experiences: *You won't see much of life if you stay at home all the time.* **9** [U] activity; movement: *There was no sign(s) of life in the empty house.* **10** [U] active; cheerfulness; VIGOUR: *The children are full of life this morning.* **11** [U] the cause of interest, pleasure, or happiness in living: *His work is his (whole) life.* **12** [the+of] a person or thing that is the cause of enjoyment or activity in a group: *He was the life (and soul) of the party.* **13** [U] also **life imprisonment** /-·-·-·/ — the punishment of being put in prison for a (long) period of time which is not fixed: *sentenced to life for armed robbery* —see also LIFE SENTENCE **14** [C] a written or filmed account of a person's life; a BIOGRAPHY: *Boswell's Life of Johnson* **15** [U] reality as the subject of painting, drawing, etc.: *painted from life, not from photographs or memory* —see also STILL LIFE **16 all human life is there** a phrase meaning that many different types of people and a wide variety of human experience are found in a particular place, situation, or type of work **17 (as) large as life** not able to be mistaken; real: *I'd thought he was in America, but when I turned round, there he was, large as life.* **18 come/bring to life:** **a** to (cause to) become conscious again after fainting **b** to (cause to) show or develop interest, excitement, etc. **19 for dear life** with the greatest possible effort, esp. in order to avoid harm: *I clung onto the branch for dear life.* **20 for the life of one** in spite of all one's efforts: *He couldn't for the life of him remember her name.* **21 In the midst of life we are in death** *quote* a phrase taken from the Christian prayer said when someone is buried or cremated (CREMATE) **22 life begins at forty** *saying* you can start to enjoy life once you are 40 years old **23 life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness** *quote* a phrase from the American Declaration of Independence which states that these are things which no government has a right to take away from people **24 Not on your life!** Certainly not! **25 take one's (own) life** *fml* to kill oneself **26 take one's life in one's (own) hands:** **a** *infml* to put oneself in (continual) danger of death **b** to get into control of one's own life **27 take someone's life** *fml* to kill someone **28 to the life** copying or copied exactly: *What an accurate portrait — it's him to the life!* —see also CHANGE OF LIFE, HIGH LIFE, LOW LIFE, PRO-LIFE, TRUE-LIFE, AFTERLIFE

Life¹ a British organization of people who are against ABORTION

Life² a US magazine known for having many interesting photographs of different places around the world

life-and-death /ˌlɪf.əˈdeɪθ/ also **life-or-death**—*adj* [A] **1** ending in life or death: *a life-and-death struggle with a creature from outer space* **2** having great importance: *It's a life-and-death matter as far as the children are concerned.*

life as-sur-ance /ˌlɪf.əˈsʊr.əns/ *n* [U] LIFE INSURANCE

life belt /ˌlɪf.belt/ *n* a belt or ring made of a material that will float, held or worn in order to prevent a person from sinking after falling into water

life-blood /ˌlɪf.blʌd/ *n* [U] **1** something that gives continuing strength and force: *Trade is the lifeblood of most modern states.* **2** *lit* blood regarded as the thing that keeps one alive

life-boat /ˌlɪf.bəʊt/ *n* **1** a strong boat kept on shore and used for saving people in danger at sea

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain the lifeboat service is not provided by the Government, but by an organization called the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), which uses people who give their services freely. The organization collects money from the public to pay for its equipment, etc. The sea is important to British people, and lifeboats, and the people who work in them, are popular. ◀

2 a small boat carried by a ship for escape in case of wreck, fire, etc.

life buoy /ˌlɪfˈbɔɪ/ *n* a large ring made of material that will float; LIFE BELT

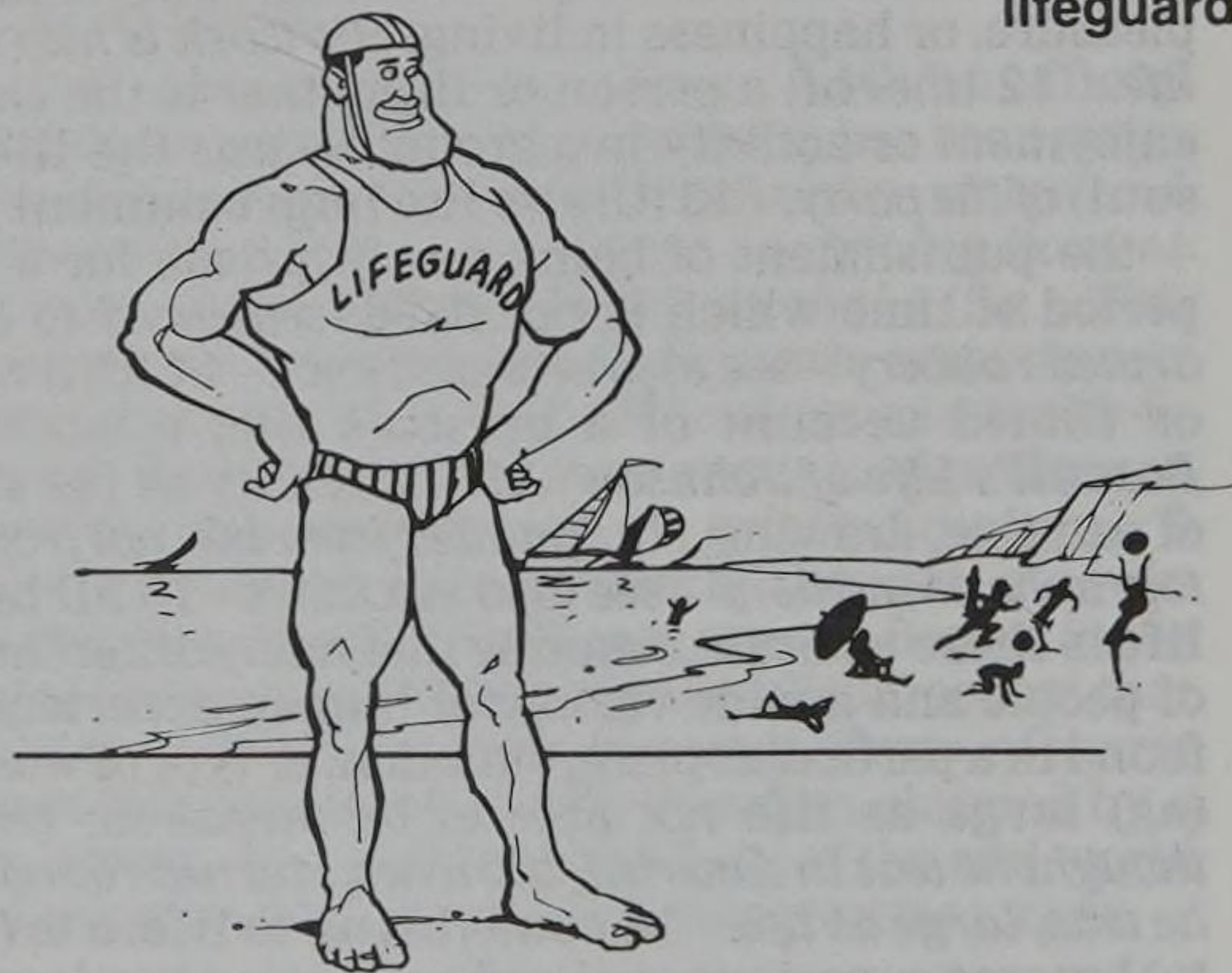
life class /ˌlɪf.klɑːs/ *n* an art class in which students draw or paint a person who acts as a model

life cycle /ˌlɪfˈsaɪkl/ *n* the regular development or changes in the form of a living thing in the course of its life, such as that of insects from egg to worm-like form and then to winged form

life ex-pec-tan-cy /ˌlɪf.ɪkˈspɛk.tən.sɪ/ also **expectation of life**—*n* [C;U] **1** the average number of years that a person is expected to live: *Life expectancy for men is about 78 years in Japan.* **2** the length of time that an object, an idea, or an arrangement will be in use

life form /ˌlɪf.fɔːm/ *n* a class of plant or animal: *Distinctive life forms have evolved to suit this harsh climate.*

lifeguard



life-guard /ˌlɪfɡɑːd/ *n* a swimmer employed, e.g. on a BEACH or at a swimming pool, to help swimmers in danger

Life Guards /ˌlɪfˈɡɑːdz/ *n* [the +P] a REGIMENT (=a large division of men) of horse soldiers in the British army who provide a ceremonial guard at Horse Guards, a building in Whitehall in London, and to the MONARCH (=the king or queen) on special occasions. The guards, who wear colourful uniforms, perform a ceremony, the Changing of the Guard, which is very popular with tourists—see also CHANGING OF THE GUARD

life his-to-ry /ˌlɪfˈhɪstəri/ *n* all the events in the course of the life of one living thing

life im-pris-on-ment /ˌlɪf.ɪmˈprɪz.ən.mənt/ *n* LIFE (13)—see also LIFE SENTENCE

life in-sur-ance /ˌlɪf.ɪnˈsʊr.əns/ *n* [U] a kind of insurance in which a person makes regular payments so that if they die, their wife or husband and children will receive a large sum

of money. Sometimes the insured person receives a large sum of money when they reach a certain age.—compare HEALTH INSURANCE

life jack-et /ˌlɪfˈdʒæk.ɪt/ *n* an air-filled garment worn round the upper body to support a person in water

life-less /ˌlɪf.ləs/ *adj* **1** *esp. lit* dead: *a lifeless corpse* **2** *derog* lacking force, interest, or activity: *a lifeless performance*—compare LISTLESS—*~ly adv*—*~ness n* [U]

life-like /ˌlɪf.laɪk/ *adj* being a very close or exact representation: *a lifelike photograph*

life-line /ˌlɪf.laɪn/ *n* **1** a rope used for saving people in danger, *esp.* at sea **2** a rope fastened to a swimmer who goes down to great depths, by which signals can be sent up **3** something on which one's life depends, such as one's only way of being connected with other people: *He's severely disabled, so the telephone is his lifeline to the world.*

life-long /ˌlɪf.lɒŋ/ *adj* [A] lasting all one's life: *my lifelong friend*

life mem-ber /ˌlɪfˈmɛm.bər/ *n* a person who will belong to a club etc. until he/she dies and who usu. will have made a single large payment for membership

life mem-ber-ship /ˌlɪfˈmɛm.bər.ʃɪp/ *n* [U] the state of being a life member of a club etc.: *She has life membership of the Youth Hostels Association.*

Life of Bri-an /ˌlɪf.əvˈbraɪən/, **The** an English film, featuring the actors from the *Monty Python* programmes, which is a humorous PARODY of the life of Jesus. Because of this subject matter, some people found the film offensive, while others who were used to the BLACK HUMOUR of *Monty Python* found it very funny.

life of Ri-ley /ˌlɪf.əvˈraɪli/ see **lead the life of Riley** (LEAD¹ (13))

life-or-death /ˌlɪf.əˈdeɪθ/ *adj* [A] LIFE-AND-DEATH

life peer /ˌlɪfˈpiə/ **life peer-ess** /ˌlɪfˈpiə.ɪs/ *n* a Briton who has the rank of PEER¹ but is not allowed to pass it on to a son or daughter after death

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Until 1958 all members of the House of Lords were the sons or daughters of lords. Life peers were introduced in an attempt to improve the House of Lords. They are chosen by the Government, with suggestions from the opposition parties, for their legal, political, or social experience. ◀

life pre-serv-er /ˌlɪfˈpreɪvər/ *n* *esp. AmE* a life-saving apparatus, such as a LIFE BELT or LIFE JACKET

lif-er /ˌlɪf.ər/ *n* *sl* a person who has been sent to prison for life—see also LIFE (13)

life raft /ˌlɪfˈrɑːft/ also **raft**—*n* RAFT¹ (2)

life-sav-er /ˌlɪfˈseɪvər/ *n* **1** someone or something that saves life or prevents difficulty **2** something that comes just in time to save one from a difficult or unpleasant situation: *A cup of strong black coffee can be a real lifesaver at times.*

Life Sav-er /ˌlɪfˈseɪvər/ *n* *tdmk* (in the US) a small hard round sweet with a hole in the middle that comes in many different FLAVOURS

life-sav-ing /ˌlɪfˈseɪvɪŋ/ *n* [U] the set of skills necessary to protect or save someone from drowning, such as excellent swimming, carrying a drowning person through the water, and MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION: *You have to know lifesaving to apply for this job as a lifeguard.*—compare FIRST AID

life sav-ings /ˌlɪfˈseɪvɪŋz/ *n* [P] all the money which a person who is not very rich has managed to save during their life: *Thieves broke in and stole her life savings.*

life sci-en-ces /ˌlɪfˈsaɪn.sɪs/ *n* [P] also **life science** *n* [C;U]—a group of subjects studied at university, and concerned with plants, animals, and the human race

life sen-tence /ˌlɪfˈseɪns/ *n* a prison SENTENCE¹ (2) for a long period of time which is not fixed. In Britain, people are not punished by death, so a life sentence is given for murder or other violent crimes.

life-size /ˌlɪfˈsaɪz/ also **life-sized**—*adj* (of a work of art) of the same size as what it represents: *a life-sized statue of the president*

life-span /ˌlɪfˈspæn/ *n* the average length of life of a sort of animal or plant or the time for which a material object will last: *Men have a shorter lifespan than women.* *These nuclear reactors have a pretty short lifespan.*—compare LIFETIME

life sto-ry /'liː.ˌstɔː/ *n* the story of someone's whole life: *I don't know why she needed to tell me her whole life story.*

life-style /'laɪfstɑɪl/ *n* a way of living, including the kind of home one lives in, the things one owns, the kind of job one does, and the LEISURE activities one enjoys; *the luxurious lifestyle of a Hollywood star*

life sup-port sys-tem /'liː.ˌsɜːp.ɔːt/ *n* 1 a piece of equipment which keeps a person alive when they are seriously ill

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the US esp. there are many people kept alive with this equipment who will never become conscious, and there are new moral and legal problems about deciding whether and when to switch off the equipment and let a person die. —see also LIVING WILL ◀

2 a piece of equipment which keeps a person alive when they are in a place where people cannot live in the usual way, e.g. in space 3 a natural system which is necessary for life to continue, for example the process that produces OXYGEN for people to breathe

life's work /'liː.ˌwɜːk/ also **life work** — *n* [U] an achievement for which someone has worked very hard for most of their life because they think it is very important: *The freeing of the slaves was his life's work.*

life-time /'laɪftaɪm/ *n* the time during which a person is alive or a machine, organization, etc., continues to exist: *I doubt if there will be a female Pope in my lifetime.* | *the opportunity/chance of a lifetime* —compare LIFESPAN

Lif-fey /'lɪfi/ [*the*] a river in the Republic of Ireland which flows through Dublin

lift¹ /lɪft/ *v* 1 [T (UP)] to bring from a lower to a higher level; raise: *I can't lift this bag — it's too heavy.* | *If you lift up the chair I'll clean the carpet underneath it.* | *He was too weak even to lift his hand.* | (fig.) *She lifted her eyes (=looked up) from the book.* | (fig.) *The good news lifted my spirits.* 2 [I] (of movable parts) to be able to be lifted: *The top of this box won't lift (off).* 3 [T+obj+adv/prep] to take hold of and move to a higher or lower place or position: *I lifted the child down from the tree.* | *She lifted the baby out of the cot.* 4 [I] (esp. of low clouds, mist, etc.) to move upwards or disappear; DISPERSE: *The plane will take off once the fog has lifted.* 5 [T+obj+adv/prep] to carry by air; AIRLIFT 6 [T] to bring to an end; remove; RESCIND: *to lift an embargo/a ban* 7 [T] *infml, usu. derog* to take and use (other people's ideas, writings, etc.) as one's own without stating that one has done so; PLAGIARIZE: *All his main ideas in this article are lifted from other works.* 8 [T] *infml* to steal (esp. something small) —see also SHOPLIFT 9 [T] *tech* to dig up (vegetables that grow under the ground, or plants): *lifting potatoes* 10 [T (UP)] *lit* to make (the voice) loud, e.g. in singing —see also **lift a finger** (FINGER¹)

lift off *phr v* [I] (of an aircraft or spacecraft) to leave the ground; TAKE OFF —see also LIFT-OFF

lift² *n* 1 [C] an act of lifting: *One more lift and it's up!* 2 [C] *BrE* || **elevator** *AmE* — an apparatus in a building for taking people and goods from one floor to another: *He pressed the button to call the lift.* | *He took the lift to the 14th floor.* | *the hotel lift* 3 [C] a free ride in a private vehicle: *Can I give you a lift home?* 4 [C;U] a lifting force, such as an upward pressure of air on the wings of an aircraft 5 [S] *infml* a feeling of increased strength, cheerfulness, etc.: *Passing the exam gave me a real lift.* 6 [C] any of various types of equipment for lifting

lift-off /'liː.ˌɒf/ *n* [C;U] the start of the flight of a spacecraft; TAKEOFF —see also **lift off** (LIFT¹)

lig-a-ment /'lɪgəmənt/ *n* any of the strong bands in the body that join bones or hold some part of the body in position: *He tore a ligament playing football.*

lig-a-ture /'lɪgətʃə/ *n fml or tech* something used for tying, esp. a thread used for tying a BLOOD VESSEL to prevent loss of blood

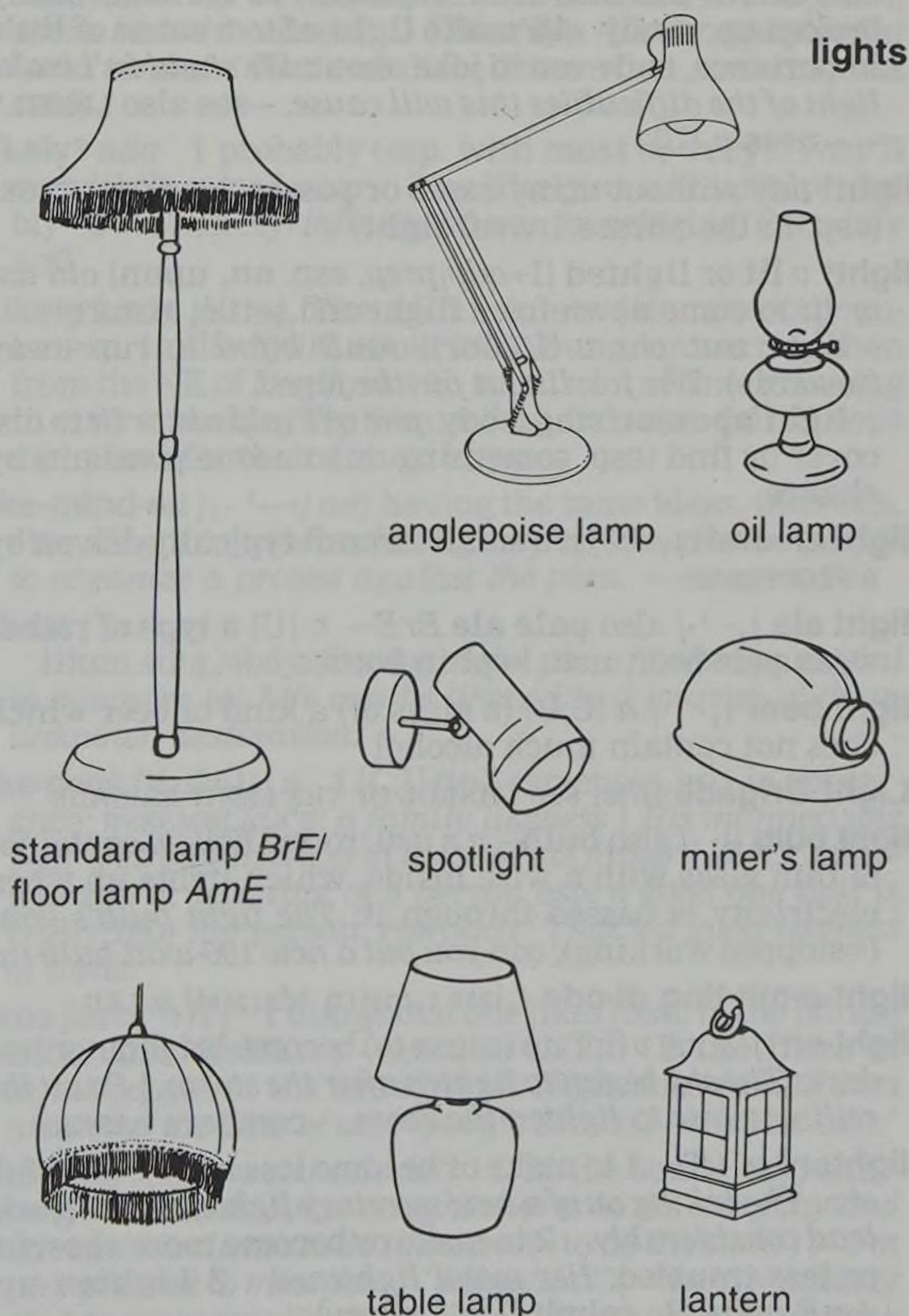
light¹ /laɪt/ *n* 1 [U] the natural force that takes away darkness, so that objects can be seen: *sunlight* | *gaslight* | *firelight* | *She worked by the light of a candle/the moon.* | *Have you got enough light to read (by)?* | *The light isn't good/strong enough to take a photograph.* | *The lake was bathed in the soft (=not very bright or strong) light of the moon.* | *I must finish this painting while the light lasts.* (=before the darkness of evening starts to come) | *Come over into the light (=an area that is not dark) where I can see you.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Light is often connected with goodness

and knowledge, but **darkness** is connected with evil and ignorance. ◀

2 [C] a something that produces light and allows other things to be seen, such as a lamp or TORCH: *Turn off/Switch off the lights when you go to bed.* | *Shine your light over here, please.* | *The lights went down* (=gradually became less bright) *and the performance began.* | *the neon lights of the city* b a TRAFFIC LIGHT: *The lights are changing (to red); you'd better stop.* —see picture at LIVING ROOM

3 [U] the path by which a supply of light reaches a person: *I can't read while you're standing in my light.* 4 [S;U] (something that will cause) burning: *Have you got/Can you give me a light, please?* (=please provide me with a match, cigarette lighter, etc. to make my cigarette, etc., burn) | *The candle fell over and set light to the warehouse.* 5 [C] *tech* a window or other opening in a roof or wall that allows light into a room 6 [S;U] brightness, esp. in the eyes, showing happiness or excitement 7 [C *usu. sing.*;U] the bright part of a painting or photograph: *light and shade* 8 [U] the condition of being or becoming known: *Some new information has come to light about the accident.* 9 [S] *fml* the way in which something or someone appears or is regarded: *The workers and the employers see the situation in quite a different light.* | *This incident seems to show the company in a bad light.* (=in an unfavourable way) 10 [U] *lit or fml* (something that provides) knowledge, understanding, or explanation: *the light of truth* | *Does this information throw/shed any light on the problem?* 11 *according to one's own lights fml or lit* with regard to one's own personal opinions or ideas of right and wrong 12 *in the light of BrE* || *in light of AmE* — taking into account; considering: *I wanted to hold the meeting today, but in the light of the changed circumstances it had better be postponed.* 13 (to go) out like a light *infml* (to fall) deeply asleep or unconscious 14 *let there be light (and there was light)* a phrase from the Bible used by God when creating light in the world, now used humorously to ask for light or when a light is put on 15 *light at the end of the tunnel* signs of the end of something which has been difficult or unpleasant: *The project has been going on for months but at last we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.* 16 *the light's on, but nobody's home infml* a person is awake but not involved in their surroundings —see also GREEN LIGHT, LEADING LIGHT, LIGHTS, NORTHERN LIGHTS, RED LIGHT



light² *v lit* /lit/ or **lighted** 1 [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) start

to burn; IGNITE: *He lit (up) a cigarette.* | *The fire won't light.* —see FIRE (USAGE) **2** [T] to give light to: *The stage is lit by several powerful spotlights.* **3** [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) become bright with pleasure or excitement: *Suddenly a smile lit (up) her face.* | *Her face lit up (with joy) when she saw him coming.* **4** [T+obj+adv/prep] old-fash to show the way with a light: *I lighted him up the stairs to bed with a candle.*

▷ USAGE **Lit** is more common than **lighted** as the past and past participle of **light**, except in sense 4 or when it stands as an adjective before the noun: *He's lit a match.* | *The match is lit.* | *a lighted match* ◀

light up *phr v* [I;T (=light sthg. up)] **1** to make or become bright with light or colour: *The candles on the Christmas tree lit up the room.* | (fig.) *The room lights up when she walks in!* **2** to cause (lamps) to begin giving out light: (BrE) *Lighting-up time is 6.50 tonight.* **3** *infml* to begin to smoke (a cigarette, CIGAR, or pipe)

light³ *adj* **1** having light; not dark; bright: *It's getting light: morning is coming.* **2** not deep or dark in colour; pale: *a light-coloured dress* | *light green curtains* —compare DEEP¹ (5) **3** (also **lite**) of food, not containing very much of a substance, e.g. fat, that is considered harmful: *New light cheese spread with only half the fat.* — **~ness** *n* [U]

light⁴ *adj* **1** of little weight; not heavy: *It's so light a child could lift it.* **2** of little weight as compared with size or the usual weight: *a light summer suit* | *a light metal* | *This case is surprisingly light.* **3** of less than the correct weight: [after *n*] *The crate is a pound (too) light.* **4** small in amount; less than average or expected: *a light crop of wheat* | *light traffic* **5** easy to bear or do; not severe, difficult, or tiring: *light punishment* | *light duties* **6** intended only for entertainment; not serious or deep in meaning: *light reading* | *light comedy* **7** soft; gentle; having little force: *a light wind* | *Give it a light tap with a hammer.* **8** quick and graceful in movement: *She's light on her feet.* **9** a (of sleep) from which one wakes easily; not deep **b** [A] easily woken: *a light sleeper* **10** a (of meals) small in amount **b** (of food) easy to DIGEST **11** [A] (of a person) habitually eating, drinking, smoking, etc., in small amounts: *She's a light smoker.* **12** (of wine and other alcoholic drinks) not very strong **13** *lit* happy, cheerful, or free of worries: *light of heart* —see also LIGHT-HEARTED **14** (of the head) having an unsteady feeling, as when in a feverish condition or after drinking alcohol; DIZZY —see also LIGHT-HEADED **15** (of soil) easily broken up; sandy **16** **make light of** to treat as of little importance, and even to joke about: *We shouldn't make light of the difficulties this will cause.* —see also LIGHTLY — **~ness** *n* [U]

light⁵ *adv* without many cases or possessions (LUGGAGE) (esp. in the phrase **travel light**)

light⁶ *v* **lit** or **lighted** [I+adv/prep, esp. **on**, **upon**] *old use* or *lit* to come down from flight and settle; ALIGHT

light out *phr v* [I (for)] *AmE infml* to run away (towards): *The fox lit out for the forest.*

light upon/on sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] *old use* or *lit* to discover or find (esp. something or someone pleasant) by chance

light air-craft /,lɪtˈækrɑːft/ *n* a small aircraft typically driven by a PROPELLER

light ale /,lɪtˈæ/ also **pale ale** *BrE— n* [U] a type of rather weak pale beer, usu. kept in bottles

light beer /,lɪtˈbiːr/ *n* [C;U] (a glass of) a kind of beer which does not contain much alcohol

Light Brigade [the] see CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

light bulb /ˈlaɪtbʊl/ also **bulb— n** a usu. round hollow container of thin glass with a wire inside, which lights up when electricity is passed through it: *The light bulb's gone* (=stopped working); *can you put a new 100-watt bulb in?*

light-e-mit-ting di-ode /ˈlaɪtɪˌmɪtɪŋ ˈdaɪəʊd/ *n* LED

light-en¹ /ˈlaɪtn/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become brighter or less dark: *The sky began to lighten after the storm.* | *Paint the ceiling white to lighten the room.* —compare DARKEN

lighten² *v* [I;T] **1** to make or become less heavy, forceful, etc.: *The taking on of a new secretary lightened her workload considerably.* **2** to make or become more cheerful or less troubled: *Her mood lightened.* **3** **Lighten up!** *AmE infml* Be calm!; Don't worry!

light-er¹ /ˈlaɪtə/ also **cigarette lighter— n** a small instrument that produces a flame for lighting cigarettes, pipes,

or CIGARS: *a gas lighter* (=that produces a flame by burning gas)

lighter² *n* a large open flat-bottomed boat used for loading and unloading ships —compare PINNACE

light-fin-gered /ˌlaɪtˈfɪŋəd/ *adj* **1** *infml* having the habit of stealing small things **2** having fingers that move easily and quickly, as in playing an instrument

light-head-ed /ˌlaɪtˈhɛd/ *adj* **1** unable to think clearly or move steadily, e.g. during fever or after drinking alcohol; DELIRIOUS **2** not sensible or serious; FRIVOLOUS — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

light-heart-ed /ˌlaɪtˈhɑːtəd/ *adj* **1** cheerful; happy **2** not serious: *a television comedy that takes a light-hearted look at life in prison*

light heav-y-weight /ˌlaɪtˈheɪvɪˌweɪt/ *n, adj* (a BOXER) heavier than a MIDDLEWEIGHT but lighter than a HEAVYWEIGHT

light-house /ˈlaɪthaʊs/ *n* -**houses** /ˌhaʊzɪz/ a tower or other building with a powerful flashing light that guides ships or warns them of dangerous rocks

light in-dus-try /ˌlaɪtɪnˈdʌstri/ *n* [U] the branch of industry which produces small goods, e.g. things used in the house

light-ing /ˈlaɪtɪŋ/ *n* [U] the system, arrangement, or equipment that lights a room, building, street, theatre, etc., or the quality of the light produced: *You can completely change the atmosphere of a room if you change the lighting.*

lighting up time /ˌlaɪtɪŋ ʊp ˈtaɪm/ *n* [U] *BrE* the time at which vehicles must by law put their lights on in the evening, when it begins to get dark

light-ly /ˈlaɪtli/ *adv* **1** with little weight or force; gently: *He tapped her lightly on the shoulder.* **2** to a slight or little degree: *lightly cooked* | (fig.) *Only six months in prison for murder — I call that getting off lightly!* (=with little punishment) **3** without careful thought or consideration: *I'm not making these accusations lightly, you know!* **4** without appearing to be concerned: *"Don't worry about it at all," he said lightly.*

light me-ter /ˈlaɪtˌmiːtə/ *n* a piece of equipment used by a photographer to measure how much light there is: *a camera with a built-in light meter*

light-ning /ˈlaɪtnɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** a powerful flash of light in the sky caused by electricity passing from one cloud to another or to the earth, usu. followed by thunder: *The tower has been struck by lightning.* —see also FORKED LIGHTNING, GREASED LIGHTNING, HEAT LIGHTNING, SHEET LIGHTNING **2** **lightning never strikes twice in the same place** saying the same piece of bad luck does not happen to a person twice

lightning bug /ˈlaɪtnɪŋ ˌbʌg/ *n* *AmE* for FIREFLY

lightning con-duc-tor /ˈlaɪtnɪŋ ˌkɒndʌktə/ *BrE* || **lightning rod** /ˈlaɪtnɪŋ ˌrɒd/ *AmE— n* a metal wire or bar leading from the highest point of a building to the ground to protect the building from damage by lightning

lightning strike /ˈlaɪtnɪŋ ˌstraɪk/ *n* a sudden STRIKE (=stopping of work) by dissatisfied workers without the usual warning of intention

light pen /ˈlaɪt ˌpen/ *n* **1** an object like a pen used in shops to tell the prices of goods from the BAR CODES on them **2** a piece of equipment like a pen used to draw lines on a computer SCREEN

Light Rail Ve-hi-cle /ˈlaɪt ˌreɪl ˌveɪhɪkl/ *n* LRV

light rail-way /ˈlaɪt ˌreɪlweɪ/ *n* a railway that uses light trains and usu. carries only passengers, not goods. Light railways usu. run in cities, sometimes along streets.

lights /laɪts/ *n* [P] *old-fash* the lungs of sheep, pigs, etc., used as food

light-ship /ˈlaɪtʃɪp/ *n* a small ship that is fixed near a dangerous place at sea and warns and guides other ships by means of a powerful flashing light

lights-out /ˈlaɪts ˌaʊt/ *n* [U] the time when a group of people in beds (in a school, the army, etc.) must put the lights out and go to sleep: *No talking after lights-out!*

light-weight /ˈlaɪtˌweɪt/ *n* **1** a person or thing of less than average weight **2** a BOXER heavier than a FEATHERWEIGHT but lighter than a WELTERWEIGHT **3** *derog* someone who is of little importance or does not have the ability to think deeply: *He's an intellectual lightweight.* —**lightweight** *adj*: *I find his articles rather lightweight.*

light year /ˈlaɪt ˌjɪər/ *n* **1** (a measure of length equal to) the

distance that light travels in one year (about 9,500,000,000,000 kilometres or 6,000,000,000,000 miles), used for measuring distances between stars **2** also **light years pl.**— *infml* a very long time: *light years ago*

lig-ne-ous /'lɪgniəs/ *adj tech* like wood

lig-nite /'lɪɡnaɪt/ *n* [U] a soft material like coal, used for burning

li-ka-ble, **likeable** /'laɪkəbəl/ *adj* (esp. of people) pleasant; easy to like

like¹ /laɪk/ *v* [T not usu. in progressive forms] **1** to regard with pleasure or fondness; have good feelings about; enjoy: *I like your new dress.* | *She's very friendly — everyone likes her.* | *She is very well-liked.* | *"Do you like Chinese food?" "Yes I love it!"* | *I don't like it when she tells me how to do things.* [+v-ing] *The children like watching television.* [+to-v] *I like to visit her as often as possible.* | (*infml* used to mean the opposite, esp. so as to show annoyance) *I like the way he just comes in here and tells everyone what to do!* | *I like your cheek!* (=I don't like your rudeness!) **2** [+to-v/v-ing; only in negatives] to be willing (to): *I know she could help, but I don't like to ask her when she's so busy.* | *I don't like interrupting her when she has visitors.* **3** (with **should**, **would**) **a** to wish: [+to-v] *I'd like to see you again soon.* [+obj+to-v] *I wouldn't like you to think I was being unfair.* | *We'd like him to come.* [+obj+v-ed] *I'd like this work finished by Friday, please.* **b** (used for adding politeness to what you are saying): [+to-v] *I'd like to thank everyone who helped me.* (=I thank everyone ...) | *We'd like to wish you good luck.* **4 a** (with **should**, **would**) to choose to have; want: *I'd like the red one, please.* (=Please give me the red one.) | (used in making an offer) *Would you like a cigarette/a cup of tea?* [+obj+adj] *I'd like my steak well-done.* (=Please cook it thoroughly) [+obj+v-ed] *I'd like to see this work finished by Friday, please.* **b** to have habitually: *When do you like your breakfast?* | *What do you like for tea?* | *"How do you like your coffee?" "I like it black."* **5 How do you like ...?** (used when asking for an opinion or judgment): *How do you like this dress?* (=does it seem good to you?) | (shows annoyance or surprise) *"My boyfriend has just told me to go on a diet."* *"Well how do you like that!"* **6 How would you/he/they like ...?** How would you/he/they feel about (something)?; What would your/his/their reaction to (something) be?: *How would you like to be treated like that?* (=in such a bad way) | (used in making a threat) *How would you like a punch on the nose?* **7 I'd like to** (used in disbelief or angrily) I would be surprised/interested to: *I'd like to see him do better, even if he does think he's so clever.* (=I don't think he could do better) | *I'd like to know what you mean by that.* **8 I like that!** *infml* That is very annoying!: *"He said you were fat."* *"Well, I like that!"* **9 if you like:** **a** if it would please you; if that is what you want: *We can go out if you like.* **b** if I may express it in this way: *It wasn't actually a holiday, more a working break, if you like.*

▷ **USAGE** **1 Like** used on its own means "to be fond of or enjoy": *I like coffee.* (=I'm fond of it) | *I like watching* (also *to watch* AmE) *television.* **2** When asking for something, or to be allowed to do something, *I'd like* is more common and more polite than *I want*: *I'd like a cup of coffee.* | *I'd like to watch television tonight.* **3** When offering something to someone say **Would you like ...?**: *Would you like a cup of tea?* | *Would you like me to help you with your homework?* —see also **WANT** (USAGE)◀

like² *prep* **1** in the same way as: *Do it like this.* | *He cried like a baby when they told him the news.* **2** with the same qualities as; similar to: *He was like a son to me.* | *She's very like her mother.* | *When the car's painted it will look like new.* | *There's nothing like* (=nothing as nice as) *a nice hot bath.* | *What's your new job like?* (=is it interesting, enjoyable, etc.?) **3** typical of: *It was (just) like him to think of helping her.* | *It's not like her to be so late.* (=She's not usually so late.) **4** (esp. with **look**, **sound**) in a way that shows the likelihood of (being): *It looks like rain.* | *From what you say, she sounds like the right person for the job.* (=it seems that she might be the right person) **5 infml** (used in forming phrases that add force): *We ran like mad.* | *It hurts like hell/like anything.* (=hurts very much) **6** for example; such as: *There are several people interested, like Mrs Jones and Dr Simpson.* **7 like father, like son** a phrase used about a son who looks/acts, etc. very similar to his father: *Michael always*

forgets my birthday—like father, like son, I suppose! **8 something like** about; more or less: *It'll cost something like £100.* —see also **feel like** (FEEL¹)

▷ **USAGE** Note the difference between these uses of **like** and **as**: *He has been playing tennis as a professional for two years.* (=he is a professional) | *He plays tennis like a professional.* (=he is not a professional but he plays as well as a professional)◀

like³ *n* **1** [the+(of)] someone or something which is like another, esp. in having equally high value; equal: *Will we ever see the like of Mozart again?* | *I've never seen its like/the like of it.* **2 and the like** and something of the same kind: *running, swimming, and the like* —see also **LIKES**

like⁴ *adj* **1 fml** with the same or similar qualities: *We have like attitudes/are of like mind* (=are in agreement) *in this matter.* **2** [A] *fml* of the same type; SUCHLIKE: *running, swimming, and like sports* **3** [F+to-v] *old use or dial* likely **4 as like as two peas (in a pod)** *infml* the same in all ways

like⁵ *conj* **1 infml** as; in the same way as: *Do you make bread like you make cakes?* | *Like I said, I can't get there on Saturday.* (=I have said this before) **2 nonstandard** as if: *He acts like he's the boss.*

like⁶ *adv* **1 nonstandard** (used in speech, either after an inexact, unusual, or unclear expression or as a meaningless addition): *He went up to her all innocent, like, as if he'd done nothing.* **2 old use** in the same way (in the phrases **like as**, **like to**, **like unto**) **3 as like as not** *infml* probably **4 like enough** *infml* probably

-**like** see **WORD FORMATION**

like-a-ble /'laɪkəbəl/ *adj* **LIKABLE**

like-li-hood /'laɪklihʊd/ *n* [U (of)] **1** the fact or degree of being likely; probability: *There's no likelihood/little likelihood of rain.* [+ (that)] *There's not much likelihood he'll succeed.* **2 in all likelihood** probably

like-ly¹ /'laɪkli/ *adj* **1** that can reasonably be expected; probable: *The likely winner of the election.* | *Rain is likely in all parts of the country today.* | *A new pay settlement is the most likely outcome of these discussions.* | *If, as seems likely, we fail — what then?* [F+to-v] *He's likely to arrive a bit late.* | *It's likely that they will lose the election.* —opposite **unlikely**; see **APT** (USAGE), **PROBABLE** (USAGE) **2** [A] suitable to give (good) results: *That's the likeliest suggestion we've heard yet.* | (BrE *infml*) *a likely lad, who's bound to succeed* **3 (That's) a 'likely story!'** *infml* (said to show that one disbelieves what someone has said)

likely² *adv* **1** probably (esp. with **most** or **very**): *They'll very likely come by car.* **2 as likely as not** *infml* probably **3 Not likely!** *infml* (used esp. for refusing) Certainly not!

Likely Lads /'liːliːz/, **The** a British television **SERIES** popular esp. in the 1960s, about two young, unmarried men from the NE of England who spent a lot of time drinking in **PUBS** and enjoying themselves and were full of hope and plans for their future lives

like-minded /'liːmɪnd/ *adj* having the same ideas, interests, etc.: *He got together with a group of like-minded people to organize a protest against the plan.* — **~ness** *n* [U]

lik-en /'laɪkən/ *v*

liken sthg./sbdy. to sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T often pass.] *fml* to compare to: *Life can be likened to a journey with an unknown destination.*

like-ness /'laɪknɪs/ *n* **1** [C;U (to)] sameness, esp. in appearance; RESEMBLANCE: *a family likeness* | *His mannerisms bear a strong likeness to those of his father.* **2** [C] a photograph or painting of a person esp. a good one that is really like the person; PORTRAIT: *That's a good likeness of Julie.*

likes /laɪks/ *n* [P] **1** things that one likes (usu. in the phrase **likes and dislikes**) —see also **LIKING** **2 the likes of** *infml* people of the stated type: *High-class restaurants aren't for the likes of us.* (=people like us) —see also **LIKE**³

like-wise /'laɪk-waɪz/ *adv fml* **1** in the same way; similarly: *The stockbroker bought shares in the company and advised his clients to do likewise.* (=to do the same) | *"I'm very pleased to meet you."* *"Likewise."* (=“I am similarly glad to meet you.”) **2** also; in addition: *You must pack plenty of food. Likewise, you'll need warm clothes, so pack them too.*

lik-ing /'laɪkɪŋ/ *n* 1 [S+for] fondness: *to have a liking for sweets* 2 **to one's liking** sometimes *pomp* suiting one's needs, wishes, or expectations: *Was the meal to your liking, madam?* (=did you like it?)

Li-kud /lɪ'kud/ -'kuːd/ [*the*] a RIGHT-WING political party in Israel

li-lac /'laɪlək/ *n* 1 [C] a tree with pinkish purple or white flowers giving a sweet smell 2 [U] a colour like the pale purple colour of these flowers

Lil-ith /'lɪlɪθ/ in Jewish FOLKLORE, a female devil, the first wife of Adam, who is said to be a VAMPIRE

Lille /li:l/ a large industrial city in the N of France

Lil-lee /'lɪli/, **Den-nis** /'denɪs/ (1949–) an Australian cricket player who has played for the English Northamptonshire team since 1988

Lil-li-bur-le-ro /,lɪlɪbə'leərəʊ/ -bər-/ the name of a popular old song based on Irish words "Lero, lero, lilliburlero" in which the words are repeated after every VERSE

Lil-li-put /'lɪlɪpʌt, -pʊt/ a country in the book *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift where all the people and things are very small. The people are called **Lilliputians**

Lil-li-pu-tian /,lɪlɪ'pjʊːʃən-/ *adj fml* extremely small; MINIA-TURE: *a doll's house with Lilliputian furniture*

Lil-ly-white's /'lɪliwaɪts/ one of a group of shops selling sports equipment and clothing, with branches in central London and other cities

Li-lo /'laɪləʊ/ *n* -los *BrE tdmk* (often without *cap.*) an AIRBED, used as a bed esp. when camping, or for lying on esp. by the sea or to float on water

lilt /lɪlt/ *n* [S] a regular usu. pleasant pattern of rising and falling sound, esp. in speaking or singing: *He speaks with a Welsh lilt.*

lil-ting /'lɪltɪŋ/ *adj* having a lilt: *a lilting voice* | *a lilting tune*

lil-y /'lɪli/ *n* 1 any of several plants with large flowers of various colours, esp. one with clear white flowers. A white lily is often used as a SYMBOL of purity and beauty. —see also **gild the lily** (GILD), WATER LILY 2 **consider the lilies of the field; they toil not neither do they spin** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from the Bible, used when saying that things are important even if they do not serve any very useful purpose

lily-liv-ered /,li.. 'li..-/ *adj infml* cowardly

lily of the val-ley /,li.. 'li..-/ *n* **lilies of the valley** a plant with several small white bell-shaped flowers with a sweet smell

lily pad /'li.. -/ *n* the leaf of the WATER LILY, which floats on the surface of the water

lily-white /,li.. 'li..-/ *adj esp. lit or humor* pure white: *a lily-white complexion* | (fig.) *a person of lily-white character* (=of very pure and honest character)

Li-ma /'lɪzmə/ an important industrial and university city; the capital of Peru

li-ma bean /'lɪzmə bɪzn/ 'laɪ-/ *n* a bean of tropical American origin with flat seeds which are often dried for later eating

limb /lɪm/ *n fml or tech* 1 a leg or arm of a person or animal, or the wing of a bird 2 a (large) branch of a tree 3 **out on a limb** alone without support, esp. in opinions or argument 4 **-limbed** /lɪmd/ having the stated type or number of limbs: *strong-limbed* —see also **in wind and limb** (WIND¹) — ~ *less adj*

lim-ber¹ /'lɪmbər/ *v*

limber up *phr v* [I] to make the muscles stretch and move easily by exercise, esp. when preparing for a race, game, etc.

limber² *adj apprec, fml or lit* loose (in muscle); moving and bending easily; SUPPLE

lim-bo¹ /'lɪmbəʊ/ *n* [U] 1 (often *cap.*) (in the Roman Catholic religion) a place which is neither heaven nor HELL where the souls of those who have not done evil may go after death, even though they were not Christians during their life —compare PURGATORY 2 a state of uncertainty: *I'm in limbo, waiting to know whether or not I've got the job.*

limbo² *n* -bos a West Indian dance in which a dancer leans backwards and passes under a rope or bar which is lowered closer and closer to the floor

lime¹ /laɪm/ *n* [U] 1 also **quicklime**— a white substance

obtained by burning LIMESTONE 2 a white powder made by adding water to this, used in making cement, for liming fields, etc.

lime² *v* [T] *tech* to add lime to (fields, land, etc.) in order to control acid substances

lime³ also **lime tree** /'li..-/ || also **linden** *esp AmE*— *n* a tree sometimes planted along streets because of its attractive appearance and sweet-smelling yellow flowers

lime⁴ *n* 1 a tree which bears a small juicy green fruit with a sour taste 2 the fruit of this tree: *a glass of lime juice*

lime-ade /,laɪm'eɪd/ *n* [U] a green drink made of the juice of limes, with sugar added, and sometimes gas

lime green /,li.. 'li..-/ *adj, n* (of) a light yellow green colour

lime-light /'laɪmlaɪt/ *n* 1 [*the*] the centre of public attention: *a hospital that has been in the limelight because of the new techniques of heart surgery being pioneered there* | *when a famous author's husband steals the limelight and writes a best-seller* 2 [U] a bright white light produced by heating lime in a strong flame, which was formerly used in theatres to light the stage

lim-e-rick /'lɪmərɪk/ *n* a usu. humorous short poem with five lines, three long and two short ones. An example of a limerick is:

*There was a young man from Bengal,
Who went to a fancy-dress ball,
He decided, for fun,
To dress as a bun,
But a dog ate him up in the hall.*

Limerick 1 a COUNTY in the SW of the Republic of Ireland 2 the main town of this county

lime-stone /'laɪmstəʊn/ *n* [U] a type of rock containing CALCIUM and other substances —see also LIME¹

li-mey /'laɪmi/ *n* -meys *sl, esp. AmE, usu. humor or derog* an Englishman

lim-it¹ /'lɪmɪt/ *n* 1 [C] also **limits**— the farthest point or edge, which cannot or must not be passed: *Other countries' vessels are not allowed to fish within a 12-mile limit of our coast.* | *to reach the limit of one's patience* | *I'll help as much as I can, but there's a limit to what I can do* (=I can't do everything). | *I can't walk 10 miles; I know my limits.* | (fig.) *Her ambition knows no limit(s).* (=is extremely great) 2 [C] the greatest or smallest amount or number which is fixed as being legal, correct, necessary, etc.: *The government has imposed an 8% limit on pay awards.* | *The bank has written to say I've gone over my credit limit.* (=I have borrowed more than I am allowed) | *safety limits* | *time limit* | *The motorist was found by police to be below/over the limit.* (=having less/more than the highest level of alcohol in the blood at which one may legally drive a vehicle) 3 [*the*] *infml* someone or something that is too annoying, difficult, painful, etc. to bear: *This is the third time in a week that the electricity supply has been cut off — it really is the limit.* 4 **off limits (to)** *esp. AmE* where one is not allowed to go; out of BOUNDS (to): *The town is off limits to military personnel.* 5 **within limits** not beyond a certain point, amount, time, etc.: *to keep our spending within (reasonable) limits* | *You can do what you like — within limits.*

limit² *v* [T (to)] to keep within a certain size, amount, number, area, or place; RESTRICT: *We must limit our spending.* | *We must limit ourselves to an hour/to one cake each.*

lim-i-ta-tion /,lɪmɪ'teɪʃən/ *n* 1 [U] the fact or condition of limiting or being limited 2 [C *usu. pl.*] something that limits; the limit beyond which no more can be done: *I won't even try to fix the car myself; I know my limitations as a mechanic.* | *It's a good little car, but it has its limitations.* (=cannot do so much as a bigger or more powerful one)

lim-it-ed /'lɪmɪtɪd/ *adj* 1 [(to)] not very great in amount, power, etc., and not able to increase or improve; having limits or limitations: *a student of rather limited ability/intelligence* | *Seating is limited to 500.* | *limited resources/funds* | *a limited edition of a book* (=with only a certain number printed) —opposites **unlimited, limitless** 2 (*abbrev. Ltd*) [A; after *n*] *BrE* (of a company) having limited liability: *J. Marsh and Sons Limited* —compare INC, PLC

limited com-pa-ny /,li.. 'li..-/ also **limited-li-a-bil-i-ty com-pa-ny** /,li.. 'li..-/ *n* a company whose owners only have to pay a limited amount if the company gets into debt

limited e-di-tion /ˌlɪmɪtɪd ˈeɪʃən/ *n* copies of a book, picture, etc. made at one time and limited to a certain number so that the quality will be good and the value may increase

limited li-a-bil-i-ty /ˌlɪmɪtɪd ˈlaɪəbəlɪti/ *n* [C;U] *tech* the legal duty to pay back debts only up to the limit of the money owned (by a company): *a limited-liability company* —see also LIMITED COMPANY

limited-o-vers crick-et /ˌlɪmɪtɪd ˈoʊvəz ˈkrɪkɪt/ *n* ONE-DAY CRICKET

lim-it-ing /ˈlɪmɪtɪŋ/ *adj* which prevents improvement, increase, etc.: *A limiting factor in health care is lack of doctors.*

lim-it-less /ˈlɪmɪtɪləs/ *adj* without limit or end: *limitless possibilities* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

limn /lɪm/ *v* [T] *old use* **1** to describe **2** to paint or draw

Li-mog-es /lɪˈmɒʊz/ *a city in W central France where fine cups, plates, etc. are made*

lim-ou-sine /ˈlɪməziːn, ˌlɪməˈziːn/ *n* also **lim-o** /ˈlɪməʊ/ *infml* — a big expensive comfortable car —see also STRETCH LIMO

limp¹ /lɪmp/ *v* [I] **1** to walk with an uneven step, one foot or leg moving less well than the other **2 derog** (of speech, music, poetry, etc.) to have an uneven pattern

limp² *n* [S] a limping way of walking: *to walk with/have a limp*

limp³ *adj derog* lacking strength or stiffness: *I like lettuce to be crisp, not limp and soggy.* | *a limp handshake* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

lim-pet /ˈlɪmpɪt/ *n* a small sea animal with a shell (SHELL-FISH), which holds on tightly to the rock where it lives: *She clung to his side like a limpet.* —see picture at SEA

lim-pid /ˈlɪmpɪd/ *adj esp. lit* (esp. of liquid) clear; transparent: *eyes like limpid pools* — *~ly adv* — *~ity* /lɪmˈpɪdɪti/ *n* [U]

Lim-po-po /lɪmˈpəʊpəʊ/ [*the*] a river in South Africa which flows across Mozambique to the Indian Ocean

limp-wrist-ed /ˌlɪmp ˈwaɪst ɪd/ *adj derog* (of a man) lacking manly forcefulness

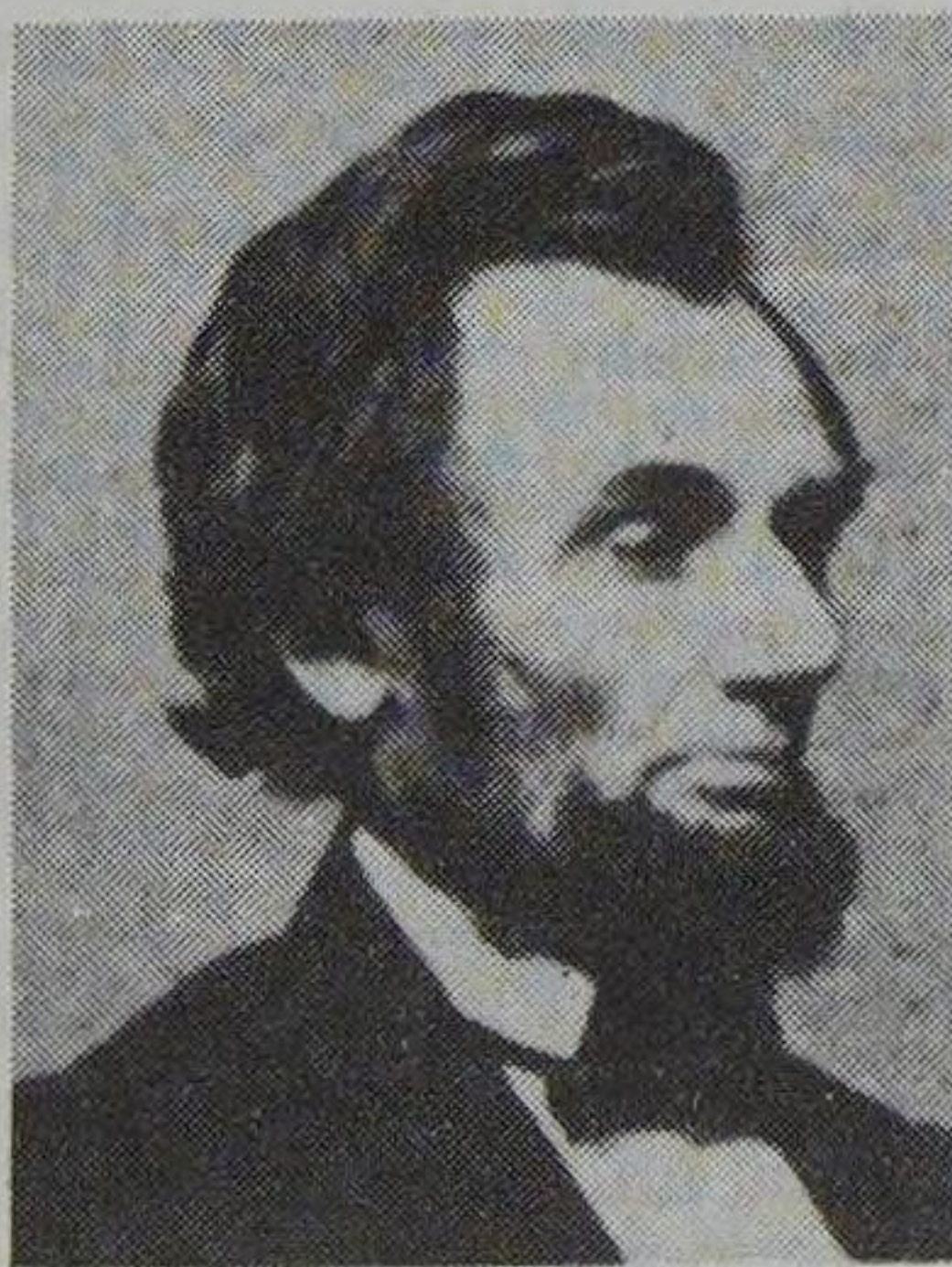
lim-y /ˈlaɪmi/ *adj* covered in or containing LIME¹: *limy soil*

linch-pin /ˈlɪntʃ ˌpɪn/ *n* [(of)] an important part or member which keeps the whole thing or group together

Lin-coln¹ /ˈlɪŋkən/ *a city in Lincolnshire where the local government for that COUNTY is based. It is famous esp. for its CATHEDRAL.*

Lincoln² *tdmk* an American LUXURY car made by Ford: *She drove up in a Lincoln Continental.*

Lincoln³, **Abraham** (1809–65) **Abraham Lincoln**
a self-educated lawyer, Republican President of the US (1861–65). Lincoln was against an increase in slavery, and when he came to power the Southern states, which depended on the work of slaves, wanted to leave the US. This led to the American Civil War in which he fought the South. In 1863 he said that the slaves would be freed. He also made the Gettysburg Address in favour of DEMOCRACY. After the war he was shot by an actor called John Wilkes Booth. He is remembered as one of the greatest American presidents and his picture can be seen on the five-dollar bill.



Lincoln Cen-ter /ˌlɪŋkən ˈtɛntər/ [*the*] The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; a large group of theatres and concert halls in New York City where plays, concerts, and OPERAS are performed: *The concert will be broadcast live from Lincoln Center.*

Lincoln green /ˌlɪŋkən ˈɡriːn/ *n* [U] (cloth of) a bright green colour originally made at Lincoln. Robin Hood and his men are said to have worn this colour. —see ROBIN HOOD

Lincoln Me-mo-ri-al /ˌlɪŋkən ˈmeɪəriəl/ [*the*] a building in Washington, DC, with a large stone figure of Abraham Lincoln inside it. It was built to preserve his memory.

Lincoln's Birth-day /ˌlɪŋkən ˈbɜːrθ ˈdeɪ/ *n* [U] the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, February 12th, which is a legal holiday in many American states —see also PRESIDENT'S DAY

Lin-coln-shire /ˈlɪŋkənʃə/ *written abbrev. Lincs* a COUNTY in E England, bordering on the North Sea

Lincoln's Inn /ˌlɪŋkən ˈɪnz/ one of the four INNS OF COURT in London —see INNS OF COURT

Lincoln Tun-nel /ˌlɪŋkən ˈtʌnəl/ [*the*] a traffic tunnel under the Hudson River that connects Manhattan with New Jersey —see colour map on page 1376

Lincs *written abbrev. for: Lincolnshire*

linc-tus /ˈlɪŋktəs/ *n* [U] *BrE* liquid medicine to cure coughing

Lind /lɪnd/, **Jen-ny** /ˈdʒeni/ (1820–87) a Swedish singer known for her sweet voice and called the “Swedish NIGHTINGALE”

lin-dane /ˈlɪndeɪn/ *n* [U] a chemical for killing insects, now thought dangerous to humans

Lind-bergh /ˈlɪndbɜːg|ˌbɜːrg/, **Charles** (1902–74) an American AVIATOR; in 1927 he became the first person to fly non-stop and alone across the Atlantic, flying from New York to Paris in his plane the **Spirit of St Louis**. Later his baby son was kidnapped (KIDNAP¹) and murdered.

lin-den /ˈlɪndən/ *n poet and AmE* a LIME³ tree

Lin-dis-farne /ˈlɪndɪsfɑːn||ˌfaɪrən/ another name for HOLY ISLAND

Lin-dis-farne Gos-pels /ˌlɪndɪsfɑːn||ˌɡɒspəlz/ [*the* +P] a handwritten, decorated book containing the Christian Gospels, written at Lindisfarne (Holy Island) before AD 700 and now preserved in the British Museum

line¹ /laɪn/ *n* **1** [C] a long narrow mark (drawn) on a surface: *Do not write below this line.* | *She drew a wavy line under the word.* | *With his finger he traced the curving line of the road on the map.* **2** [C] **a** a long mark used as a limit or border: *The British runner was first to cross the finishing line, but was later disqualified.* | *If the ball goes over the line, it's out of play.* | *a white line in the middle of the road* | *a line judge in tennis* **b** a border or edge: *the line between North and South Korea* | (fig.) *There's a very fine (dividing) line between genius and madness.* —see also MASON-DIXON LINE, PLIMSOLL LINE **3** [S (of)] a direction of movement: *He's had so much to drink that he could hardly walk in a straight line.* | *a ball's line of flight* **4** [C] a row: *A line of coats hung on the wall.* **5 a** [C;U] a number of people side by side or one behind the other: *The recruits were standing in line to be examined.* | *Children, get into (a) line/form a line.* | *If we don't get in line now we'll never get a seat.* —compare QUEUE¹ **b** [C] a set of people following one another in time, esp. a family: *He comes from a long line of actors.* | *a line of kings* **6** [C] also **lines pl.** — a railway track: *Passengers are not allowed to cross the lines.* | *the main line from London to Leeds* **7** [C] a row of words **a** on a printed page: *There are 12 words to a line.* (=on each line) **b** in a poem: *Each line has five beats.* **8** [C] a long thin mark in the skin; WRINKLE: *The old man's face is covered with lines.* **9** [C] an OUTLINE: *the sleek elegant lines of a racing yacht* **10** [C; U] (a piece of) string or cord: *clothes drying on the washing line* | *a fishing line* | *50 metres of line* **11** [C] a telephone wire or connection: *The lines went down in the storm.* | **Hold the line, please** (=do not put your telephone down) — *I'm trying to connect you.* | *I'm afraid this is rather a bad line — could you speak a bit more clearly?* | *I'm sorry, sir, the line is busy/engaged — would you like to call back later?* —see also HOT LINE, PARTY LINE **12** [S] *infml* a short letter: *Drop me a line* (=write me a letter) *when you know your exam results.* **13** [C] (*usu. in comb.*) (a company that provides) a system for travelling by or moving goods by road, railway, sea, or air; a TRANSPORT system or company: *an airline* | *a shipping line* **14** [C often pl.] a course or method of action: *This failed to persuade her, so we tried a new line of argument.* | *The police are following various lines of inquiry.* | *You haven't got the right answer, but you're on the right lines.* (=following the right method, and likely to succeed) | *What line shall we take at the meeting?* | *The judges have been urged to take a tough line with violent criminals.* —see also HARD LINE **15 a** [C] (esp. in politics) an officially stated set of ideas, methods, etc.: *to follow the party line* **b** [U] (in certain phrases) the state of being in agreement with this: *This pay settlement will bring us into line with the government's guidelines.* | *The party leadership managed to keep the members in line/to prevent them from stepping out of line.* | *They disagreed at first but in the end they fell into line.* **16** [C] *infml* an area of interest, activity,

or work: *Her line is insurance.* | *That's not really in my line of business.* | *Fishing isn't really my line.* **17** [C] a type of goods: *This dress is one of our latest lines.* | *a new line in shoes* | (fig.) *She does/has a good line in funny stories.* **18** [C] *infml* a way of talking that seems to be intended to deceive or persuade: *Don't give me that line about not having any money!* **19** [the] *tech* the EQUATOR: *crossing the line* **20** [C] a row of military defences, esp. that nearest the enemy: *He was parachuted behind enemy lines.* | *the Maginot line* | (fig.) *the body's first line of defence against disease* —see also **FRONT LINE** **21** [the] **a** (in the British army) the regular foot soldiers of the army: *a line regiment* **b** (in the US army) all the regular fighting forces **22** [C] also **line of battle** /, · · 'lɪn/ — the arrangement of soldiers, ships, etc., side by side: (old-fash) *a ship of the line* (=a large warship) **23** [S (on)] *infml* a piece of useful information: *Can you give me a line on the new head of department? I can't seem to get a line on her.* **24** **all along the line** in every part and/or from the beginning: *He's been opposing me all along the line.* **25** **down the line** *infml*, esp. *AmE* completely or fully, e.g. in support or encouragement: *I'll support her down the line on that issue.* **26** **Hard lines!** *BrE infml* (an expression of sympathy) What bad luck you had! **27** **in line for** about to or likely to get: *in line for the job/for promotion* **28** **in line with** straight or level compared with: *The wheel at the back isn't in line with the one at the front.* | (fig.) *That isn't in line with my ideas at all.* **29** **on the line** at serious risk; in danger: *Work hard: your job is on the line.* (=you may lose it) | *to put one's reputation on the line* **30** (**reach**) **the end of the line** (to reach) the last stages, esp. the point of failure —see also **LINE**, **BOTTOM LINE**, **STORY LINE**, **draw the line at** (**DRAW**¹), **lay something on the line** (**LAY**²), **OFFLINE**, **ONLINE**, **read between the lines** (**READ**¹)

line² *v* [T] **1** to draw lines on: *lined paper* **2** to mark with lines or WRINKLES: *Signs of worry lined his face.* **3** to form rows along: *The crowds lined the streets.* | *tree-lined avenues*

line up *phr v* **1** [I;T (=line sbdy./sthg. ↔ up)] to (cause to) form into a row, side by side or one behind the other: *He lined up behind the others to wait his turn.* | *Line up the glasses and I'll fill them.* | *Everybody line up, facing the front.* **2** [T (for)] (line sthg./sbdy. ↔ up) to arrange for (an event) to take place or (a person) to take part in an event: *We've lined up a great race to celebrate the centenary, with some of the best runners in the world taking part.* | *We've lined up Pavarotti for the main role in the opera.* [+obj+to-v] *We've lined him up to sing the main role.* —see also **LINEUP**

line³ *v* [T (with) often pass.] **1** to cover the inside of (something) with material: *I lined the box with paper before I put the clothes in.* | *a coat lined with silk* | *Are these curtains lined?* —see also **LINING** **2** to be an inner covering for: *the soft slippery substance that lines the stomach* **3** **line one's pocket(s)/purse** to make money for oneself in a way that is disapproved of

lin-e-age¹ /'lɪni-ɪdʒ/ *n* [C;U] *fml* the way in which members of a family are descended from other members: *a family of ancient/royal lineage*

line-age² /'lɪnɪdʒ/ *n* [U] the number of lines in something written or printed

lin-e-al /'lɪniəl/ *adj fml* in a set of people following each other directly in time, esp. from parent to child — **~ly** *adv*

lin-e-a-ment /'lɪniəmənt/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *fml* or *lit* **1** a FEATURE of the face **2** a typical quality

lin-e-ar /'lɪniə/ *adj* **1** of or in lines; *a linear diagram* **2** [A] of length: *linear measurements*

linear ac-cel-e-ra-tor /, · · · 'lɪnɪər/ *n* a piece of equipment used by scientists to find out about the nature of matter; it makes small pieces of atoms called PARTICLES travel in a straight line at increasingly high speed —compare **CYCLOTRON**

linear per-spec-tive /, · · · 'lɪnɪər/ *n* [U] a way of drawing and painting in which lines which are really PARALLEL meet. It is used to give the idea of depth and distance.

line-back-er /'lɪnbækər/ *n* a player in American football who tries to spoil attacking plays by tackling (**TACKLE**¹) members of the other team

line draw-ing /, · · 'lɪn/ *n* a drawing done with a pen or pencil and made up only of lines

line drive /, · · 'lɪn/ *n* a BASEBALL hit with great force in a straight line fairly near the ground

Lin-e-ker /'lɪnɪkər/, **Gar-y** /'gæri/ (1960–) an English football player, originally in the Leicester City team, who played for England in 1984 and again in the World Cup in 1986 and 1990. He is known for being a nice person and for not using offensive language.

line-man /'lɪnmən/ also **linesman**— *n* -**men** /mən/ a man whose job is to take care of railway lines or telephone wires

line man-age-ment /, · · 'lɪn/ *n* [U] the method of passing information and instructions along lines of people up and down an organization, each person telling the one immediately above or below them —**line manager** *n*

lin-en /'lɪnɪn/ *n* [U] **1** cloth made from the plant FLAX and used to make good-quality tablecloths, furnishing cloth, and clothes; it wears well but is very expensive; before the introduction of cotton, it was used for sheets **2** sheets, tablecloths, etc.: *to buy bed linen* | *a linen cupboard* **3** *old use* underclothes, esp. white: *to change one's linen* —see also **wash one's dirty linen** (**WASH**¹)

linen bas-ket /, · · 'lɪn/ *n* a LAUNDRY BASKET

linen cup-board /, · · 'lɪn/ *n* a special cupboard where sheets, tablecloths, TOWELS, etc. are kept. In Britain, if this cupboard is heated, it can be called an **AIRING CUPBOARD**.

line of coun-try /, · · 'lɪn/ *n* [S] *BrE infml* kind of job: *What line of country are you in?*

line of du-ty /, · · 'lɪn/ *It's all in the line of duty.* It's part of the responsibility that goes with the position that someone holds. People say this when you thank or praise them for doing something and they want to say that they are only doing their job.

line of scrim-mage /, · · 'lɪn/ *n* in American football, a line running parallel to the width of the field where the ball is placed at the beginning of each play

line of sight /, · · 'lɪn/ also **line of vision** /, · · 'lɪn/ — *n* **lines of sight** the imaginary straight line along which one looks towards an object

line-out /, · · 'lɪn/ *n* the method in RUGBY UNION by which the ball is returned to play by being thrown in between two lines of players from each team

line print-er /, · · 'lɪn/ *n* a machine which prints out information from a computer at a very high speed —see picture at **COMPUTER** —**ing** *n* [U]

lin-er /'lɪnər/ *n* **1** [C] a large passenger ship esp. one of several owned by a company: *an ocean liner* —see also **AIRLINER**, **CRUISE LINER** **2** [C;U] an **EYELINER** **3** [C] a piece of material used inside another to protect it: *a nappy liner* | *a bin liner* | *A semi-rigid polythene liner was used for the pool.*

liner notes /, · · 'lɪn/ *n* [P] *AmE* for **SLEEVE NOTES**

lin-er-train /'lɪnətreɪn/ -ər- *n* a **FREIGHTLINER**

lines /lɪnz/ *n* [P] **1** the words learnt by an actor to be said in a play: *Have you learnt your lines yet?* **2** *BrE* a usu. stated number of written lines to be copied by a pupil as a punishment: *The teacher gave me 100 lines.* **3** *lit* a poem: *"Lines on the Death of Nelson"* —see also **MARRIAGE LINES**

lines-man /'lɪnzəmən/ *n* -**men** /mən/ **1** (in sport) an official who stays near the lines marking the side of the playing area and helps the UMPIRE or REFEREE, esp. by deciding when a ball has gone outside the limits —see picture at **TENNIS** **2** a **LINEMAN**

line-up /'lɪn-ʌp/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** **a** an arrangement of people, esp. side by side in a line looking forward **b** *AmE* a line of this sort arranged by the police, containing a person thought to be guilty of a crime and looked at by a witness who tries to recognize the criminal **2** the (arrangement of) players or competitors at the beginning of a race or game: *There are seven horses in the lineup.* **3** a set of events, following one after the other: *What's next on the lineup?* —see also **LINE UP**

ling /lɪŋ/ *n* [U] a plant very like HEATHER, with bell-shaped pink flowers

lin-ger /'lɪŋgər/ *v* [I (ON)] **1** to remain for a time instead of going, esp. because one does not wish to leave; delay going: *She lingered outside the school after everyone else had gone home.* | *They lingered over coffee and missed the train.* **2** to be slow to disappear: *The pain lingered on*

for weeks. | *The event is over, but the memory lingers on.*
—see also LINGERING **3** to be close to dying for a long time, esp. when suffering from a disease — **~er** *n*

lin·ge·rie /'lænzəri:/, /'lænzə'rei/, 'lænzəri:/ *n* [U] underclothes for women, esp. for sale in shops: *Underwear and nightdresses are in the lingerie department.*

lin·ger·ing /'lɪŋgərɪŋ/ *adj* [A] slow to reach an end or disappear: *a lingering death/illness* | *The official announcement finally extinguished any lingering hopes we might have had.* — **~ly** *adv*

lin·go /'lɪŋɡəʊ/ *n* **-goes** *sl* a language, usu. foreign: *I'd like to go to France but I don't speak the lingo.*

lin·gua fran·ca /,lɪŋgwə 'fræŋkə/ *n* a language used between peoples whose main languages are different. It may originally be made up of parts of several languages: *English serves as a lingua franca in some parts of the world.* —compare PIDGIN

lin·gual /'lɪŋgwəl/ *adj* *tech* **1** of the tongue **2** (of a sound) made by the movement of the tongue —see also BILINGUAL

lin·gui·ni /lɪŋ'gwɪni/ *n* [U] *AmE* a flat, thin PASTA in the shape of long narrow pieces

lin·guist /'lɪŋgwɪst/ *n* **1** a person who studies and is good at foreign languages **2** also **lin·guis·ti·cian** /,lɪŋgwɪ'stɪʃən/ — a person who studies linguistics

lin·guis·tic /lɪŋ'gwɪstɪk/ *adj* of languages, words, or linguistics: *linguistic development/change* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

lin·guis·tics /lɪŋ'gwɪstɪks/ *n* [U] the study of language in general and of particular languages, their structure, grammar, history, etc. —compare PHILOLOGY

lin·i·ment /'lɪnɪmənt/ *n* [U] a liquid substance containing oil, to be rubbed on the skin to cure soreness and stiffness of the joints —compare EMBROCATION

lin·ing /'laɪnɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] (a piece of) material covering the inner surface of an article of clothing, a box, etc.: *a coat with a silk lining* | *brake linings* —see picture at SHOE; see also SILVER LINING

link¹ /lɪŋk/ *n* **1** a single ring of a chain **2** [(between, with)] something which connects two other parts: *Research has established a link between smoking and lung cancer.* | *a new rail link between two towns* (=a train service between them) | *The country has now severed* (=broken) *all links with its former ally.* —see also LINKS, CUFF LINK, MISSING LINK

link² *v* **1** [T (UP)] to join or connect: *The road links all the new towns.* | *The police suspect that the two crimes may be linked.* | *They walked with linked arms/with their arms linked.* | *The road will link Manchester and Birmingham with/to London.* **2** [I (TOGETHER, UP, with)] to be joined or connected: *In the second part of the programme, we'll be linking up with American radio for an interview with the President.* | *My own work links up with the research you are doing.* —see also LINKUP

Link *n* [S] (in Britain) a system which allows people to get money from their bank accounts using a special plastic card (a **Link card**) in a machine

link·age /'lɪŋkɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] a system of links or connections **2** [S;U (between, with)] a connecting relationship (between things or ideas) **3** [S;U (between, with)] the idea of connecting two or more different questions in the hope of getting an agreement on both: *A union spokesman rejected linkage between a wage increase and changes in working practices.*

link·man /'lɪŋkmæn/ , **link·wom·an** /-,wʊmən/fem.— **-men** /men/ *n* a person whose job is to introduce all the separate parts of a television or radio broadcast

links /lɪŋks/ *n* **links** [C+sing./pl. *v*] a piece of ground on which GOLF is played, esp. near the sea; GOLF LINKS

link·up /'lɪŋk-ʌp/ *n* an arrangement by which different things are connected: *a live TV linkup between studios throughout Europe*

Lin·nae·us /lɪ'ni:əs, -'nei-/ , **Ca·ro·lus** /kær'rəʊləs/ (1707–78) a Swedish scientist who studied animals and plants and invented a system (the **Linnaean System**) for putting them into classes

lin·net /'lɪnɪt/ *n* a small brown singing bird

li·no·cut /'laɪnəʊkʌt/ *n* **1** [U] the art of cutting a pattern on a block of linoleum **2** [C] a picture printed from such a block

li·no·le·um /lɪ'noʊliəm/ also **li·no** /'laɪnəʊ/BrE— *n* [U]

smooth shiny material in flat sheets used as a floor-covering, made up of strong cloth combined with a hard material. It is used esp. in kitchens because it is easy to clean.

Li·no·type /'laɪnəʊtaɪp/ *n* *tdmk* [U] a system for setting (SET¹ (6)) type in the form of solid metal lines: *a Linotype operator*

lin·seed /'lɪnsɪd/ *n* [U] the seed of FLAX

linseed oil /,lɪnˌsiːd/ *n* [U] the oil from linseed, used in linoleum, and in some paints, inks, etc.

lint /lɪnt/ *n* [U] **1** soft material used for protecting wounds **2** esp. *AmE* for FLUFF¹ (2)

lin·tel /'lɪntl/ *n* a piece of stone or wood across the top of a window or door, forming part of the frame

Li·nus /'laɪnəs/ a character in the **Peanuts** CARTOONS, a very young child who always takes his BLANKET everywhere because he would not feel happy without it. People may call something a **Linus blanket** if they feel safe or comfortable because it is there: *For many people the church is a kind of Linus blanket, even though they never go there.*

li·on /'laɪən/ , **li·on·ess** /'laɪənes, -nɪs/fem— *n* **1** a large yellowish-brown animal of the cat family which hunts and eats meat, and lives mainly in Africa, the male having a thick growth of hair (a MANE) over its head and shoulders: *as brave as a lion* | *the lion's roar* —see picture at BIG CATS

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The lion is thought of as brave and frightening, and as the king of the JUNGLE (= tropical forest). A lion is sometimes used to represent Britain. People sometimes also mention the idea from the Bible that one day the lion will lie down with the lamb, that is there will be peace and happiness. ◀

2 a famous and important person: *a literary lion* **3** in **the lion's den** (from the story of Daniel in the Bible) in a difficult situation, esp. because one is surrounded by people who are not friendly: *A job interview can feel like being in the lion's den.* —see also DANIEL **4** **the 'lion's share** (of) the greatest part (of); most (of) **5** **thrown/tossed to the lions** (from the custom in ancient Rome of throwing Christians to lions in an ARENA) left to an unpleasant fate, esp. by people who were thought to be friendly: *The workers felt they'd been thrown to the lions to save other people's jobs.*

Lion *n* (used as a title for a member of the Lions Club): *Contact Lion Jim Cole for details of the forthcoming Lions Club Summer Gala.*

Lion, the Witch and the War-drobe /,lɪənˌwɪtʃ ðə 'wɔːdrəʊb/, **The** a children's book by C S Lewis, the best known of his seven *Narnia* books, describing the imaginary country of Narnia and the adventures that a group of children have there —see also NARNIA

lion·heart·ed /,lɪənˌhɑːtəd/ *adj* esp. *lit* very brave

li·on·ize also **-ise** BrE— /'laɪənəɪz/ *v* [T] to treat (a person) as important or famous —**ization** /,laɪənəɪ'zeɪʃən/-nə-/ *n* [U]

Lions /laɪənz/ [the+P] see BRITISH LIONS

Lions Club /'lɪənˌklʌb/ *n* an international organization of business and PROFESSIONAL¹ (1) people who perform services for their communities, such as CHARITY work

lions' den /,lɪənˌden/ *n* a place where there is someone that one is frightened of —see also DANIEL

lip /lɪp/ *n* **1** [C] **a** either of the two edges of the mouth where the skin is delicate and usu. redder than the surrounding skin: *He kissed her on the lips.* | *I cut my lip on the cracked glass.* | *pursed lips* **b** the ordinary skin around these, esp. above the mouth: *A small moustache adorned his upper lip.* —see picture at HEAD **2** [C *usu. sing.*] the edge (of a hollow container or opening): *the lip of the cup* **3** [U] *sl* rude or arguing talk: *I'll have none of your lip, my lad!* **4** **-lipped** /lɪpt/ having lips of the stated type: *thick-lipped* —see also STIFF UPPER LIP, TIGHT-LIPPED **5** **my lips are sealed** I will keep it secret **6** **read my lips** *infml* listen very carefully to what I am saying. The phrase was used by George Bush when promising that he would introduce "no new taxes"

Li Peng /,liː 'pəŋ/ (1928–) the PRIME MINISTER of China from 1988

lip gloss /'lɪp ˌɡlɒs/ *n* [C; U] a substance in a small pot used to make the lips look very shiny

lip-id /'lɪpɪd/ *n* *tech* any of a class of FATTY substances in living things, such as fat, oil, or WAX

Lip-man /'lɪpmən/, **Mau-reen** /'mɔːrɪn/ (1946–) an English theatre and film actress famous for her part in television advertisements for British Telecommunications

lip-o-suc-tion /'lɪpəʊsʌkʃən/ *n* [U] a way of removing unneeded fat from a person's body by cutting the skin and drawing the fat out by means of SUCTION

lip-read /'lɪp rɪd/ *v* [I;T] (usu. of people who cannot hear) to watch people's lip movements so as to understand (what they are saying) — *~ing* *n* [U]

lip ser-vice /'lɪp ˌsɜːvɪs/ *n* **pay lip service** to to support in words, but not in fact; give loyalty, interest, etc., in speech, while really thinking the opposite: *The government are only paying lip service to the idea of equality for women.*

lip-stick /'lɪp stɪk/ *n* [C;U] (a stick-shaped piece of) a substance for brightening the colour of the lips

lip synch /'lɪp sɪŋk/ *n* [U] the activity of moving the lips at the same time that a recording is being played, to give the appearance that one is talking or singing — **lip-synch** *v* [I]: *They said it was live but I think she was lip-synching from her record.*

liq-ue-fac-tion /'lɪkwɛdʃən/ *n* [U] *esp. tech* the act of making or becoming liquid

liq-ue-fy /'lɪkwɛfaɪ/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to (cause to) become liquid: *Butter liquefies in heat.*

li-ques-cent /lɪ'kwesənt/ *adj tech* becoming or tending to become liquid

li-queur /lɪ'kjʊər/ *n* any of several types of very strong alcoholic drink, each of which has a special, often sweet or fruity taste, usu. drunk in small quantities after a meal — compare LIQUOR

liq-uid¹ /'lɪkwɪd/ *n* 1 [C;U] a substance which is not a solid or a gas, which flows, is wet, and has no fixed shape: *Water is a liquid.* 2 [C] *tech* either of the consonant sounds /l/ and /r/

liquid² *adj* 1 (esp. of something which is usu. solid or gas) in the form of a liquid: *liquid soap* | *liquid oxygen* 2 *apprec, esp. fml or lit* clear, as if covered in clean water: *liquid colours/eyes* 3 *apprec, esp. fml or lit* (of sounds) clear and flowing, with a pure quality 4 that can easily be exchanged or sold for money (esp. in the phrase **liquid assets**) 5 **liquid refreshment** *pomp or humor* drink, esp. alcoholic

liquid as-sets /'lɪkwɪd ˌæzɪts/ *n* [P] CASH and other ASSETS that a business has, that can easily be exchanged for money

liq-ui-date /'lɪkwɪdeɪt/ *v* 1 [T] to get rid of; destroy or kill: *The opposition leaders were liquidated on the orders of the dictator.* 2 [I;T] **a** to close down (a business company), esp. when it has too many debts **b** (of a company) to close down in this way, esp. by going BANKRUPT 3 [T] *tech* to pay (a debt)

liq-ui-da-tion /'lɪkwɪdeɪʃən/ *n* [U] 1 the closing down of a company which can no longer pay its debts. A liquidator sells off all the company's ASSETS, and the money is used to pay CREDITORS. 2 the paying of a debt

liq-ui-da-tor /'lɪkwɪdeɪtə/ *n* an official who ends the trade of a particular business, esp. so that its debts can be paid

liquid crys-tal di-splay /'lɪkwɪd ˌkrɪstəl ˌdaɪspleɪ/ *n* LCD

liq-uid-i-ty /lɪ'kwɪdɪti/ *n* [U] *tech* 1 the state of having money in one's possession, or goods that can easily be sold for money 2 the state of being liquid

liq-uid-ize also *-ise* *BrE* /'lɪkwɪdaɪz/ *v* [T] to crush (esp. fruit or vegetables) into a liquid-like form

liq-uid-iz-er /'lɪkwɪdaɪzə/ *n* *BrE* for BLENDER — see picture at KITCHEN

liquid lunch /'lɪkwɪd ˌlʌntʃ/ *n* *humor* a visit to a PUB or bar to have an alcoholic drink instead of eating food at LUNCH time

liq-uor /'lɪkwə/ *n* [U] 1 *AmE* strong alcoholic drink, such as WHISKY — compare LIQUEUR 2 *lit or tech* alcoholic drink 3 *rare, esp. BrE* the liquid produced from cooked food, such as the juice from meat

liq-uo-ri-ce, **licorice** /'lɪkwərɪs, -rɪʃ/ *n* 1 [U] a black substance produced from the root of a plant, used in medicine and sweets 2 [C;U] a sweet or sweets made from this

liquorice all-sorts /'lɪkwərɪs ˌɔːlsɔːrts, -rɪʃ-ˌsɔːrts/ *n* [P] a mixture of different shaped brightly coloured sweets containing liquorice

lir-a /'lɪərə/ *n* **lire** /'lɪərə/ or **liras** 1 the unit of money in Italy 2 the unit of money in Turkey or Syria; the Turkish or Syrian POUND¹ (2)

Lis-bon /'lɪzbən/ *n* the capital and main port of Portugal, with a large university and CATHEDRAL

lisle /laɪl/ *n* [U] cotton material, used in the past for GLOVES and STOCKINGS

lisp¹ /lɪsp/ *v* [I;T] to speak or say unclearly, pronouncing s-sounds as /θ/ — *~ingly* *adv*

lisp² *n* [S] the habit of lisping: *She speaks with a lisp.*

lis-som, **lissome** /'lɪsəm/ *adj lit apprec* (esp. of a woman or her body) thin and graceful in shape and movement — *~ly* *adv* — *~ness* *n* [U]

list¹ /lɪst/ *n* [(of)] a set of words, names, numbers, etc., usu. written one below the other, so that one can remember them or keep them in order so that they can be found: *a list of things to buy* | *a shopping list* | *an alphabetical list* | *How many people are there on the council's housing list?* — see also LISTS, CIVIL LIST, DANGER LIST, HIT LIST, SHORT LIST, WAITING LIST

list² *v* [T] 1 to put into or include in a list: *She listed all the things she had to do.* 2 to put on a government list of buildings of historical interest which must be protected

list³ *v* [I] (esp. of a ship) to lean or slope to one side: *listing to port* — **list** *n*

list⁴ *v* [I] *old use* to wish; desire

list⁵ *v* [I] *old use* to listen

listed build-ing /'lɪstɪd ˌbɪldɪŋ/ *n* (in Britain) a building on a government list of buildings which are of historical interest and must be protected. Listed buildings must not be changed in any important way or pulled down.

lis-ten¹ /'lɪsn/ *v* [I (to)] 1 to give attention in hearing: *We sat listening to music* | *listening to a play on the radio.* | *If you listen carefully you can hear a funny sound in the engine.* 2 to take notice; hear or consider with thoughtful attention: *I warned him not to go but he just wouldn't listen.* | *She never listens to me* | *to my advice.* | *Listen, I think we may be able to solve your problem.* — see HEAR (USAGE)

listen for sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] to pay attention so as to be sure of hearing: *Listen for the moment when the music changes.*

listen in *phr v* [I] 1 [(to)] to listen to a broadcast on the radio: *to listen in to the news* — see also TUNE in 2 [(on, to)] to listen to the conversation of other people, esp. secretly and without permission: *I think the police have been listening in on my phone calls.*

listen out *phr v* [I (for)] *BrE infml* to listen carefully, esp. for an expected sound: *Listen out for the baby in case she wakes up.*

listen² *n* [S] *infml* an act of listening: *Have a listen to this new album!*

lis-ten-a-ble /'lɪsnəbəl/ *adj* [(TO)] *infml* pleasant to hear: *The music is quite listenable (to).*

lis-ten-er /'lɪsnə/ *n* a person who listens or is listening, esp. to the radio: *Good morning, listeners!* | *Regular listeners will remember that a few weeks ago ...* | *If you've got any problems, she's a good listener.* (=listens patiently and sympathetically to what you want to say) — compare VIEWER

Listener, The a former British weekly magazine produced by the BBC and the IBA, with articles about television and radio programmes

listening bank /'lɪsənɪŋ ˌbæŋk/ *n* [the] a description of itself used in an advertisement for the Midland Bank. The idea was that the bank would listen to its customers and try to help them.

listening de-vice /'lɪsənɪŋ ˌdiːvɪs/ *n* something which allows one to hear other people's conversations usu. secretly; a BUG¹ (4) — compare HEARING AID

Lis-ter /'lɪstə/, **Joseph** (1827–1912) an English doctor who introduced the idea of ANTISEPTIC medicine, esp. using STERILE instruments during operations to prevent infection

lis-te-ri-a /lɪ'stɪəriə/ *n* [U] any of various kinds of bacteria which cause an illness called **listeriosis**, a kind of FOOD POISONING

Lis-te-rine /'lɪstərɪn/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of MOUTHWASH made by Warner Lambert Healthcare

listing par-tic-u-lars /'lɪŋgɪŋz/ *n* [P] *BrE tech* a document which an existing company must have printed when it is offering shares for sale which number 10 per cent or more of shares already owned –compare PROSPECTUS

list-ings /'lɪstɪŋz/ *n* [P] lists of films, plays, and other events which will take place soon, with the time and place of each. The listings appear in some newspapers and in some special magazines.

list-less /'lɪstləs/ *adj* lacking movement, activity, and interest, as if tired; *LANGUID*: *Heat makes some people list-less.* –compare LIFELESS –*~ly adv* –*~ness n* [U]

list price /'lɪstpraɪs/ *n* a price which is suggested for an article by the people who make it, but which a shopkeeper does not necessarily have to charge

lists /lɪsts/ *n* *BrE* **enter the lists** to (start to) take part in a competition, argument, etc.

Liszt /lɪst/, **Franz** /frænts/ (1811–86) a Hungarian COMPOSER and piano player who wrote poetic music full of feeling

lit¹ /lɪt/ *past tense & participle of LIGHT*^{2,6}

lit² *abbrev. for:* **1** literature or LITERARY: *lit crit* (=literary CRITICISM) **2** litre

lit-a-ny /'lɪtəni/ *n* a form of long prayer in the Christian church in which the priest calls out and the people reply, always in the same words: (fig.) *They continued with a long litany of complaints.*

li-tchi /'laɪtʃi/ *-s n* a LYCHEE

lite /laɪt/ *adj* see LIGHT³ (3)

lite beer /'laɪtbiə/ also **light beer**– *n* [U] *AmE* a beer which has fewer CALORIES than other beer

li-ter /'li:tə/ *n* *AmE* for LITRE see picture at LITRE

lit-e-ra-cy /'lɪtərəsi/ *n* [U] *fml* the state or condition of being LITERATE (=able to read and write): *an adult-literacy campaign* | (fig.) *computer-literacy* (=a simple understanding of how computers work)

lit-e-ral¹ /'lɪtərəl/ *adj* **1** being or following the exact or original meaning of a word, phrase, etc. without any additional meanings (e.g. without METAPHOR or ALLEGORY): *The literal meaning of “blue” is a colour, but it can also mean “unhappy”.* | *a literal interpretation* –compare FIGURATIVE **2** giving a single word in place of each original word: *A literal translation is not always the closest to the original meaning.* **3** *derog* not showing much imagination; *PROSAIC*: *a boring literal-minded person* –*~ness n* [U]

literal² *BrE* || **typo, typographical error** *AmE*– *n* *tech* a printing mistake, esp. in the spelling of a word

lit-e-ral-ly /'lɪtərəli/ *adv* **1** *a* in a literal sense; really: *The Olympic Games were watched by literally billions of people around the world.* *b* (used for giving force to an already strong and esp. METAPHORICAL expression): *She was literally blue with cold.* | *He was literally blazing with anger.* **2** so as to give a single word in place of each original word: *to translate literally* **3** according to the words and not the intention: *I took what he said literally, but afterwards it became clear that he really meant something else.*

▷ **USAGE** **Literally** should really be used to mean “exactly as stated”: *Their house is literally 10 metres from the sea.* (=I am telling the exact truth.) It is often used more generally to give force to an expression, but many teachers feel this is incorrect: *He literally exploded with anger.* (=his anger was very like an explosion)◀

lit-e-ra-ry /'lɪtərəri/ *adj* **1** (typical) of literature. Literary words or phrases are marked *lit* in this dictionary: *a literary style* | *one of the most coveted literary prizes* **2** [A] fond of, studying, or producing literature: *a literary man* | *a literary society*

lit-e-rate /'lɪtərət/ *adj* **1** able to read and write –compare NUMERATE **2** having studied or read a great deal **3** **-literate** having enough knowledge to use the stated thing: *computer-literate* –opposite **illiterate**; see also LITERACY –*~ly adv* –*~ness n* [U]

lit-e-ra-ti /'lɪtərəti/ *n* [*the* + P] *fml*, sometimes *derog* people with great knowledge of literature, esp. forming a fairly small group in society

lit-e-ra-ture /'lɪtərəʃ/ *n* **1** [U] a written works which are of artistic value: *one of the great works of English literature* *b* such works as a subject for study:

studying language and literature | *a course in modern African literature* **2** [S;U] all the books, articles, etc. on a particular subject: *She is trying to keep abreast of the literature (in her field).* | *There is now a vast literature on the subject.* **3** [U] *infml* printed material, esp. giving information: *Have you got any literature on the new car?* | *sales literature* | *promotional literature*

lithe /laɪð/ *adj* (esp. of people or animals) able to bend and move easily and gracefully: *the lithe bodies of the dancers* –*~ly adv*

lith-i-um /'lɪθiəm/ *n* [U] a soft silver-white simple substance (ELEMENT) that is the lightest known metal. A **lithium battery** does not lose quality quickly, so is used when a small BATTERY is needed to supply a little electricity over a long period, e.g. in a camera, watch, or calculator.

lith-o-graph¹ /'lɪθəgræf/ *n* a picture, print, etc., made by lithography

lithograph² *v* [I;T] to print by lithography

li-thog-ra-phy /lɪ'θɒgrəfi/ *n* [U] a process for printing patterns, pictures, etc., from a piece of stone or metal –**phic** /lɪθə'græfɪk/ *adj* –**phically** /kli/ *adv*

Lith-u-a-ni-a /lɪθju'eɪniə/ *n* a country on the E coast of the Baltic Sea; capital Vilnius; population 3,690,000 (1989)

Lith-u-a-ni-an /lɪθju'eɪniən/ *n* **1** [C] a person who comes from or whose parents come from Lithuania **2** [U] the main language spoken in Lithuania –**Lithuanian** *adj*

lit-i-gant /'lɪtɪɡənt/ *n* *tech* a person on one side or the other in a noncriminal case being decided by a law court

lit-i-gate /'lɪtɪɡeɪt/ *v* [I] *tech* to take a noncriminal matter to a court of law for a decision

lit-i-ga-tion /lɪtɪ'geɪʃən/ *n* [U] *tech* the process of making and defending claims in a court of law, in noncriminal matters

li-ti-gious /lɪ'tɪdʒəs/ *adj* *fml*, often *derog* habitually liking to take matters of disagreement to a court of law; fond of litigation –*~ness n* [U]

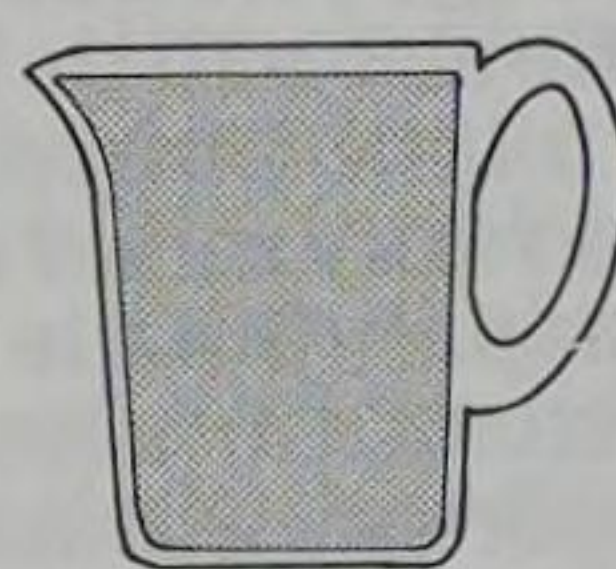
lit-mus /'lɪtməs/ *n* [U] a substance which turns red when touched by an acid substance and blue when touched by an ALKALI

litmus pa-per /'lɪtməpə/ *n* [U] (a piece of) paper treated with litmus used to test whether a liquid is acidic or ALKALINE

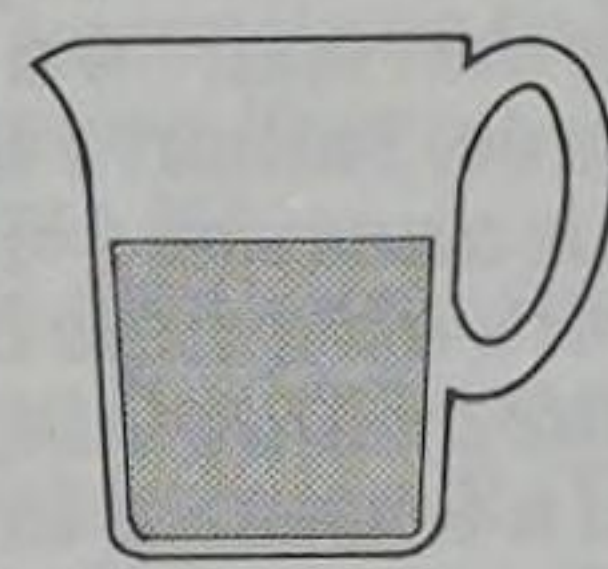
litmus test /'lɪtməst/ *n* [S] **1** something which makes it clear what someone's opinions, feelings, or abilities are: *His views on the siting of the new town are a litmus test of the Government's policy on the environment.* **2** a test using litmus paper

li-to-tes /'laɪtətɪz/ *n* [U] *tech* a way of expressing a thought by its opposite, esp. with “not” (as in **not bad** = “good”); UNDERSTATEMENT

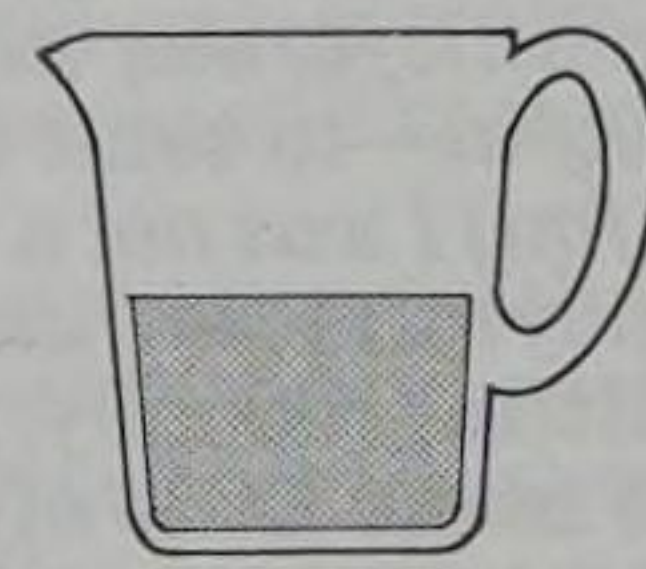
litre



1 litre *BrE*/
liter *AmE*



1 pint (in UK)



1 pint (in USA)

li-tre *BrE* || **-ter** *AmE* /'lɪtə/ *n* a metric measure of liquid: *a litre of oil* –see TABLE 2

lit-ter¹ /'lɪtə/ *n* **1** [U] waste material thrown away, esp. bits of paper scattered untidily in a public place: *The streets were full of litter.* **2** [C+*sing./pl.* *v*] a group of young animals, such as KITTENS or PIGLETS born at the same time to one mother **3** [U] a pile of STRAW used as an animal's bed *b* a special substance in the form of small grains kept on a **litter tray** to be used by house animals, esp. cats, to empty their bowels on when indoors: *cat litter* **4** [C] a bed or seat with handles, used esp. in former times for carrying people who were wounded or ill, or rich people

litter² *v* [T (with)] to cover untidily with scattered litter or something similar: *The streets were littered with old cans and other rubbish.* | *Piles of books and papers*

littered her desk. | (fig.) *The book is littered with* (=full of) *mistakes.*

lit-te-ra-teur /ˌlɪtəˈreɪtʃər/ *n* often derog a person who is interested in or works with literature, esp. a writer whose work is not considered very serious

lit-ter bin /ˈlɪtəˌbɪn/ also **litter bas-ket** /ˈlɪtəˌbæʃ/ *n* BrE a container for objects to be thrown away, esp. in a public place —compare WASTEPAPER BASKET

lit-ter lout /ˈlɪtəˌlaʊt/ *n* BrE || **lit-ter-bug** /-bʌg/ esp. AmE— *n* derog a person who leaves litter in public places

lit-tle¹ /ˈlɪtl/ *adj* 1 small, esp. in a way that is attractive or produces sympathy: *They live in a little cottage in Scotland.* | *What a nice little garden!* | *There were two little birds on the windowsill.* 2 [A] short: *She sat with him for a little while.* 3 young: *a little boy* | *my little girl* (=my daughter) | *my little* (=younger) *brother* | *She's too little to ride a bicycle.* —see CHILD (USAGE) 4 [A] not important; TRIVIAL: *the little things of life* | *one or two little problems to sort out* 5 **little things please little minds** derog a phrase used to criticize someone who is too concerned with small, or unimportant things

▷ USAGE Compare **little** and **small**. **Little** often suggests that you are talking about something which is pleasantly **small**: *I used to go there when I was a little girl.* | *I'd like to have a little house of my own.* **Small** does not have this suggestion: *Some small boys tried to steal a tape-recorder from my car.* | *I wouldn't like to live in such a small house.* ◀

little² *adv* less, least 1 to only a small degree: *a little-known fact* | *The book is little more than* (=not much more than) *a rehash of old ideas.* 2 *fm* or *pomp* (with verbs of feeling and knowing) not at all: *They little thought that the truth would be discovered.* | *Little did they know that we were watching them.* 3 rarely: *I go there very little/as little as possible.*

little³ *determiner, pron, n* less, least 1 [U] (with [U] nouns; used without **a** or **only**, to show the smallness of the amount) not much; not enough: *I have very little (money) left.* | *I understood little of what she said.* | *I have so little time to enjoy myself.* (compare *I have so few chances ...*) | *There is little hope of an agreement being reached.* | *It would take less* (=not so much) *time if you went by train.* | *no less than a mile* | *the one that costs the least (money)* (=the smallest amount) | *We did what little we could to help the refugees.* (=we did what we could, but this was not very much) | *We see very little of our children* (=we do not see them often) *now that they are grown up.* —compare FEW (1), PLENTY¹ 2 [S] (with [U] nouns; used with **a** or **the**) a small amount, but at least some: *a few eggs and a little milk* | *There's only a (very) little left.* | *Give me a little more of that wine.* | *It tastes nice if you add a little salt.* | *"Would you like some more tea?" "Just a little."* | *We had a little trouble finding the house.* | *She speaks a little French.* —compare FEW (2) 3 [S] a short time or distance: *He came back after a little.* | *Can't you stay a little longer?* | *a little over 60 years ago* | *We walked a little further along the road.* 4 **a little also a little bit** *infml*— to some degree; rather: *I was a little annoyed.* | (*fm*) *I was not a little annoyed.* (=I was really rather annoyed.) | *He thinks it's all a little bit stupid* 5 **little by little** gradually: *Little by little things returned to normal.* 6 **make little of** *fm* **a** to treat as unimportant: *She made little of her worries.* **b** to not understand much of: *I could make very little of his explanation.* —compare **make much of** (MUCH²); see FEW (USAGE), MORE² (USAGE) 7 **too little too late** not enough of something, esp. money, and given too late: *He described the government's rescue package as "too little too late"*

Little Bear /ˌlɪtəl beɪər/ [the] a group of stars, URSA MINOR

Little Big-horn /ˌlɪtl ˈbɪɡhɔːn/ [the] the river in Montana where General George CUSTER fought and was killed by Native Americans led by SITTING BULL and CRAZY HORSE This is sometimes called the **Battle of the Little Bighorn**.

little black book /ˌlɪtl ˈblæk bʊk/ *n* *infml, humor* a small book in which someone esp. a man keeps the names and telephone numbers of his girlfriends: *"Have you got Sandra's number?" "I'll just look in my little black book."*

little black dress /ˌlɪtl ˈblæk drɛs/ also **little black num-ber** /ˌlɪtl ˈblæk nʌmbər/ *n* *infml humor* a woman's dress with thin SHOULDER STRAPS, made of a black usu. silky material and worn to COCKTAIL parties. This kind of dress was originally

designed (DESIGN¹ (1)) by the French fashion designer Coco Chanel.

Little Bo-peep /ˌlɪtl bəʊ ˈpiːp/ a little girl in a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children), who lost the sheep she was looking after:

*Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep
And doesn't know where to find them;
Leave them alone, and they'll come home,
Bringing their tails behind them.*

Little Boy Blue /ˌlɪtl ˈbɔɪ ˈbluː/ a boy in a NURSERY RHYME (=old song or poem for children) who was dressed in blue and went to sleep under a HAYSTACK instead of looking after the cows and sheep

Little Chef /ˌlɪtl ˈtʃef/ *n* one of a group of modern roadside restaurants in Britain which provide FAST FOOD for people who are travelling: *We stopped at a Little Chef for lunch.* —compare HAPPY EATER

Little Dip-per /ˌlɪtl ˈdɪpər/ esp. AmE [the] a group of stars, URSA MINOR

Little Dorrit /ˌlɪtl ˈdɒrɪt/ a NOVEL by Charles Dickens, written in 1857. It is a rather SENTIMENTAL story about a young woman, Amy, (Little Dorrit) and her love for her father and then for her future husband.

little fin-ger /ˌlɪtl ˈfɪŋɡər/ also **pinkie** ScotE & AmE— *n* the smallest finger on the hand, which is farthest from the thumb. It used to be considered polite to keep the little finger straight when holding something like a cup, but people now think this is AFFECTED and amusing. —see picture at HAND

little green men /ˌlɪtl ˈɡrɪn ˈmen/ *n* *infml* [P] living beings thought to come from another PLANET, esp. Martians (=imaginary creatures from the planet Mars): *little green men in a flying saucer* | *What causes the crop circles? Little green men or human hoaxers—or neither?*

Little Jack Hor-ner /ˌlɪtl dʒæk ˈhɔːnər/ a character from a NURSERY RHYME (=old song or poem for children):

*Little Jack Horner sat in a corner,
Eating his Christmas pie;
He put in his thumb, and pulled out a plum,
And said "What a good boy am I".*

Little John /ˌlɪtl ˈdʒɒn/ (in the stories about Robin Hood) one of Robin Hood's men. He was very big and strong, and was called Little John for a joke. —see colour picture on page 620

Little League /ˌlɪtl ˈliːɡ/ a BASEBALL LEAGUE for children in the US, arranged in the summer in many different towns and cities using money from local businesses: *Are your kids playing in Little League this year?*

► CULTURAL NOTE Some parents whose children play in Little League become very concerned that their children play well and win games. Parents who put too much pressure on their children to win are sometimes called **Little League parents**, even if the sport their child is involved in is not baseball. —compare BIG LEAGUE ◀

Little Lord Faunt-le-roy /ˌlɪtl ˈlɔːd ˈfɔːntləˌrɔɪ/ a character in a children's book by Frances Hodgson Burnett. He is a young boy of noble birth, known for his long golden curls, his neat clothes, and his very polite behaviour.

Little Mer-maid /ˌlɪtl ˈmɜːmɪd/ The a story by Hans Christian Andersen in which a MERMAID (=creature that is half-woman, half-fish) falls in love with a human prince and changes her mermaid's body for legs, even though it is very painful. The prince marries a human princess, and the little mermaid dies. The story has been made into a popular CARTOON film.

Little Miss Muf-fet /ˌlɪtl mɪs ˈmʌfɪt/ a character from a NURSERY RHYME (=old song or poem for children) who was frightened away by a SPIDER

Little Nell /ˌlɪtl ˈnel/ a character in the book *The Old Curiosity Shop* by Charles Dickens. People think of the death of Little Nell as one of the saddest things in English literature, although some people consider the story to be too SENTIMENTAL (2).

Little Or-phan An-nie /ˌlɪtl ˈɔːfən ˈæni/ an American COMIC STRIP character. She is an ORPHAN who gets into a lot of trouble, esp. when the man who takes care of her, Daddy Wabucks, is away.

little peo-ple /ˌlɪtl ˈpiːpl/ [the +P] *infml* 1 fairies (FAIRY), esp. the Irish LEPRECHAUNS: *He thinks he's talking to the*

little people. 2 the people in a country or organization who have no power: *It's the little people who get hurt by these policies, not the wealthy.*

Little Red Book /ˌlɪtəl ˈrɛd bʊk/, **The** a book written by Mao Tse Tung and also known as the *Thoughts of Chairman Mao*

Little Red Hen /ˌlɪtəl ˈrɛd hɛn/, **The** a children's story, in which the Little Red Hen cannot persuade her friends to help her in her work. Each time they refuse, the little red hen says "I'll do it myself."

Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf



Little Red Rid-ing-hood /ˌlɪtl ˈrɛd ˈraɪdɪŋhʊd/ also **Red Rid-ing Hood**—a character in a children's story of the same name. In the story a WOLF eats Little Red Ridinghood's grandmother and puts on her clothes. When Little Red Ridinghood goes to visit her grandmother she is surprised by her appearance and says, "Oh, Grandma, what big teeth you've got!" "All the better to eat you with", says the wolf. A wood-cutter kills the wolf, cuts open its stomach, and saves Little Red Ridinghood and her grandmother.

Little Rock /ˌlɪtəl ˈrɒk/ the capital of the US state of Arkansas. It is famous as the place where in 1957 the US army supported an order that black and white children should mix in the same school.

little toe /ˌlɪtəl ˈtəʊ/ *n* the smallest toe on the outside of the foot

little wom-an /ˌlɪtəl ˈwʊmən/ [*the*] (an expression for mentioning) one's wife; often considered offensive, esp. by women

Little Wo-men /ˌlɪtəl ˈwʊmən/ the title of a famous children's book by Louisa M. Alcott, an American writer, about a family of four sisters

Lit-tle-wood /ˌlɪtlwʊd/, **Joan** /dʒəʊn/ (1914–) an English left-wing theatre director who tried new ways of expressing (esp. political) ideas in the theatre

Lit-tle-woods /ˌlɪtlwʊdz/ one of a group of British shops selling clothes, food, and electrical goods

Littlewoods Pools /ˌlɪtlwʊdz ˈpuːls/ *n* [P] POOLS arranged in Britain by a company called Littlewoods. People risk small amounts of money on the results of certain football matches, and those who guess the results correctly win large shares of the money that everyone has put in.

lit-to-ral /ˌlɪtərəl/ *n*, *adj* *tech* (an area of land) near the coast

li-tur-gi-cal /ˌlɪtʃɜːdʒɪkəl/ *adj* *fml* like or used in a liturgy — *~ly* /kli/ *adv*

lit-ur-gy /ˌlɪtədʒi/ *n* 1 [C] a form of worship in the Christian church, using prayers, songs, etc., according to fixed patterns in religious services 2 [*the*] (*sometimes cap.*) the written form of these services

Lit-vi-nov /ˌlɪtˈvɪnɒv/ *n*, **Maxim** (1876–1951) a Soviet politician who obtained US recognition of the USSR

liv-a-ble, **liveable** /ˌlɪvəbəl/ *adj* 1 [(IN)] suitable to live in; HABITABLE: *The house is not livable (in).* 2 [(WITH)] bearable; ENDURABLE (ENDURE): *The pain is bad, but it's livable (with).*

live /lɪv/ *v* 1 [I] to be alive; have life: *Humans and animals have an equal right to live.* 2 [I] to continue to be alive: *His illness is so serious, he is unlikely to live.* | *She lived to a great age.* | *She won't live much longer if she keeps taking drugs.* | (fig.) *A writer's words can live beyond his death.* | (written on a wall) *"Elvis lives!"* (=We feel that Elvis Presley is still alive.) | (*fml*) *Long live the King!* (an expression of loyal support) 3 [I+adv/prep] to have one's home: *Where do you live?* | *I live in Maple Road/in Liverpool.* | *Fish live in water.* | (fig., *infml*) *Where does this hammer live?* (=where is it usually kept?) 4 [I (by, on)]

to keep oneself alive (with food, money, work, etc.): *They barely earn enough to live.* | *Sheep live on* (=live by eating) *grass.* | *The islanders live by fishing.* | *Their little bit of land doesn't provide enough food to live on.* 5 [I+adv/prep; T] to pass or spend (one's life): *to live one's life alone* | *to live a life of luxury* | *She lived in fear of her life/of being attacked.* | *He lived ten years as a monk.* | *I don't know how she lives like that, never leaving the house.* 6 [I] to lead an interesting varied life: *My job's OK, but I want to live, not just to exist!* | *Now we're really living!* 7 and they all lived happily ever after a phrase used at the end of old stories for children, now often used humorously 8 live a lie to continually behave in a way that hides what one is really like or how one feels: *My marriage was never really happy—I was living a lie all those years.* 9 live and learn to have learnt something surprising: *Do Americans really have a higher body temperature than Europeans? Well, you live and learn!* 10 live and let live to accept the behaviour of other people; be TOLERANT 11 live by/on one's wits to get money by clever tricks rather than by an ordinary job, esp. dishonestly 12 live on borrowed time to continue to be alive or exist after the time when one could have been expected to die 13 live in sin *old-fash, euph or humor* (of two unmarried people) to live together as if married 14 live it up *infml* to have a wild good time; enjoy oneself with eating and drinking, parties, spending, etc.

▷ USAGE 1 When talking about the place where people live, **live**, **dwell** (*lit*) and **reside** (*fml* or *pomp*) are used like **live**: *I live in London.* | *We visited the wise man who dwelt in the mountains.* | *People residing abroad are not subject to tax.* **Inhabit** means "to live in" and is usually used in formal descriptions of animal or human populations: *These monkeys inhabit the tropical forests.* | *Nomadic tribes inhabit the Northern deserts.* 2 When talking about a short period of time use **stay** and not **live**: *Which hotel are you staying at?* | *I'm staying with friends.* ◁

live by sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to behave according to the rules of: *He lives by a strict moral code.* —see also LIVE¹ (4)

live sthg. ↔ down *phr v* [T] to make people forget about (something bad or shameful one has done), esp. by later good behaviour: *Do you remember when I was sick all over the mayor's shoes? I don't think I'll ever live it down!*

live for sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to give most attention to; seem to have as one's main reason for living: *She lives for her work/her children.*

live in *phr v* [I] (esp. formerly of a servant) to live in the place where one is employed —compare LIVE out(3); see also LIVE-IN

live off sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] *sometimes derog* to get one's food or income from: *I live off my investments.* | *He's nearly 30 and he still lives off his parents.* | *We were in enemy territory and had to live off the land.* (=get food from fields and trees, by killing animals, etc.)

live on *phr v* [I] to continue in life or use; SURVIVE: *She is dead but her memory lives on.* (=people still remember her) —see also LIVE¹ (4)

live out *phr v* 1 [T] (**live out** sthg.) to live till the end of: *Will the old man live out the month?* | *I don't want to live out my life in this hole.* 2 [T] (**live out** sthg.) to experience in reality: *Her success enabled her to live out her wildest fantasies.* 3 [I] (esp. formerly of a servant) to live in a place away from one's place of work —compare LIVE in

live through sthg. *phr v* [T] to remain alive during and in spite of (a difficult or dangerous period): *He lived through two world wars.* | *to live through a famine*

live together *phr v* [I] (of two people) to live with each other, having a sexual relationship, but without being married

live up to sthg. *phr v* [T] to keep to the high standards of: *Did the film live up to your expectations?* (=was it as good as you expected?)

live with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to live in the same house as (someone else) in a sexual relationship, but without being married 2 to accept (a difficult or unpleasant situation, esp. one that continues for a long period): *I don't enjoy the situation, but I can live with it.*

live² /laɪv/ *adj* 1 [A] alive; living: *The cat was playing with a live mouse.* —opposite **dead** 2 (of lighted coal, wood, etc.) still burning: *a live match* 3 still able to explode:

live ammunition – compare DEAD¹ (3) **4** carrying electricity which can give a shock to anyone who touches it: *live wires* – compare DEAD¹ (3) **5 a** (of broadcasting) seen and/or heard as it happens: *It wasn't a recorded show; it was live.* **b** (of popular entertainers) actually appearing in person: *Liza Minelli live in concert* **6** still able to attract interest: *a live issue/concern* **7 a real live** ... *infml* (used, esp. by or to children, for giving force to a noun, esp. when something unexpected is seen): *Look! A real live elephant!*

live³ /laɪv/ *adv* with a performance, event, etc., being shown as it actually happens: *The President's speech was broadcast live.*

Live Aid /'laɪv eɪd/ the name of two popular music concerts held in London and Philadelphia on the same day in 1985, arranged by Bob Geldof to raise money for people dying of hunger in Ethiopia. Many famous popular musicians took part without being paid. Seen on television by many people around the world, the concerts raised millions of pounds and led to other events such as Sport Aid and Comic Relief to help people in THIRD WORLD countries. – see also BAND AID, COMIC RELIEF

live birth /'laɪv 'bɜːθ/ – 'bɜːrθ/ *n* a birth in which the baby is born alive; an expression used in official figures: *the number of live births per thousand of population*

-lived see WORD FORMATION

lived-in /'lɪvɪn/ *adj* (of a room or a house) used by people for real everyday activities and not kept unnaturally beautiful, clean, and tidy just for show: *The sitting-room had a lived-in look.*

live-in /'lɪv ɪn/ *adj* [A] **1 infml** || also **sleep-in** *AmE* being someone who sleeps and eats in a house where they are employed: *a live-in housekeeper* **2 often derog.** being someone who lives with their sexual partner without being married: *a live-in boyfriend/lover*

live-li-hood /'laɪvliˌhʊd/ *n* the way one earns money to live on: *I don't just do it for fun – it's my livelihood.*

live-long /'lɪvɒŋ/ – 'lɔːŋ/ *adj* [A] *poet* (of the day or night) whole: *all the livelong day*

live-ly /'laɪvli/ *adj* **1** full of quick and often cheerful movement, thought, activity, etc.: *a lively song* | *a lively mind* | *The subject produced a lively debate in Parliament.* **2** bright; VIVID: *lively colours* **3** (in sport) which has or causes quick movement (of the ball): *bowling the ball at a lively pace* **4** in BASEBALL, likely to travel far once hit: *It's a lively ball – there've been three doubles this inning alone.* **5 infml** or *humor* troublesome; difficult: *We'll make it lively for him/give him a lively time!* – **liness** *n* [U]

Lively, Pe-nel-o-pe /pə'neləpi/ (1933–) an English writer who has written several NOVELS and children's stories, and won the Booker Prize in 1987

liv-en /'laɪvən/ *v*

liven up *phr v* [I;T (=liven sthg. ↔ up)] to (cause to) become lively: *Let's liven up the party with a little dancing.*

liv-er¹ /'lɪvə/ *n* **1** [C] a large organ in the body which produces BILE and cleans the blood **2** [U] this organ from an animal's body, used as food: *liver and onions*

liver² *n* a person who lives in the stated way: *a clean liver* (=someone who leads a healthy or morally correct life)

live rail /'laɪv 'reɪl/ *n* a thick metal bar which runs alongside the track of an electric railway and supplies electricity to the trains' motors: *"Danger – live rail"* (notice near a railway track)

Liver Building /'laɪvə ,bɪldɪŋ/ – 'vər-/ [*the*] a well-known building in Liverpool, on the side of the river Mersey. On it are two figures of the **Liver Bird**, an imaginary bird which is the SYMBOL of Liverpool.

liv-e-ried /'lɪvəriˌd/ *adj* wearing LIVERY: *a liveried servant/chauffeur*

liv-er-ish /'lɪvəriʃ/ *adj* *esp. BrE infml* feeling slightly ill, esp. after eating and/or drinking too much

Liver-pool /'lɪvəpuːl/ – 'vər-/ the third largest city in Britain, on the river Mersey in the NW of England – see colour map on page 818

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Liverpool was formerly a great port. Many people left England from Liverpool for a new life in America, and many Irish people came to Liverpool to look for work. Work in the port and in industry has decreased sharply and Liverpool has a serious unemployment

problem, as well as problems with housing and local government. Liverpool has been important in the popular music world, esp. in the 1960s when the **Beatles** started there. A person who comes from Liverpool is called a **Liver-pudlian** or (*infml*) a **Scouser**. The kind of English spoken in Liverpool is known informally as **Scouse**. ◀

Liverpool Street /'... / one of the mainline railway stations in London – see colour map on page 817

Liv-er-pud-li-an /'lɪvə'pʊdliən/ – 'vər-/ *n, adj* (a person) of or from Liverpool

liver saus-age /'lɪvə ,sɔːʒ/ *esp. BrE* || **liv-er-wurst** /'lɪvəwɜːst/ || 'lɪvəwɜːrst/ *AmE* – *n* [U] a type of cooked soft SAUSAGE made mainly of LIVER, and eaten (often spread) on bread

liv-er-wort /'lɪvəwɜːt/ – 'vər-wɜːrt/ *n* a small flat green flowerless plant growing in wet places which is like MOSS except that it has leaves

liv-e-ry /'lɪvəri/ *n* **1** [C;U] uniform of a special type for servants employed by a particular person: *The door was opened by a servant in livery.* **2** [U] *poet* clothing or covering: *the trees with their green livery of spring*

livery com-pa-ny /'... ,.../ *n* any of several ancient trade associations (GUILDS) in London

liv-e-ry-man /'lɪvəriˌmən/ *n* – **men** /mən/ a member of a livery company

livery sta-ble /'... ,.../ also **livery stables** *pl.* – *n* a place where people can pay to have their horses kept, fed, etc., or where horses can be hired for use

lives /laɪvz/ *pl. of* LIFE

live-stock /'laɪvstɒk/ – 'stɔːk/ *n* [P] animals kept on a farm, such as cattle or sheep

live wire /'laɪv 'waɪər/ *n* **1** a wire charged with electricity **2** a very active person

liv-id /'lɪvɪd/ *adj* **1 infml** very angry; FURIOUS: *She'll be livid if she finds out.* **2** blue-grey, as of marks on the skin after being hit: *livid bruises* **3** *lit* (of the face) very pale – **~ly** *adv*

liv-ing¹ /'lɪvɪŋ/ *adj* **1** alive now: *She has no living relatives.* | *the greatest living English writer* | *She is living proof of the effectiveness of this operation.* (=the fact that she is alive proves it is effective) [also *n*, *the* +P] *the living and the dead* **2** existing in use: *a living language* – compare DEAD¹ (2) **3** exact in likeness: *the living image of his father*

living² *n* **1** [C] a means of providing oneself with what is necessary for life: *She earns a living as a writer.* | *What do you do for a living?* (=What is your job?) | *He makes a good living* (=earns a lot of money) *by selling insurance.* **2** [U] (*often in comb.*) a standard or way of arranging one's life: *plain living* | *a decline in living standards* – see also COST OF LIVING, STANDARD OF LIVING **3** [C] a BENEFICE

living death /'... '.../ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a life so bad that it would be better to be dead

living fos-sil /'... '.../ *n* an animal or plant of a very ancient type, which lives now although it was thought no longer to exist

living le-gend /'... '.../ *n* a person who is very famous like a person in an old story that everyone knows, but who is still alive: *Bannister's four-minute mile made him a living legend.*

living mem-o-ry /'... '.../ *n* **within/in living memory** (of an event or time) which is not very long ago because there are people still alive who can remember it: *the worst storm in living memory*

living quar-ters /'... ,.../ *n* [P] a place where people live, esp. on a ship or in an army or industrial camp: *the cramped living quarters on a submarine* | *The quarrymen's living quarters were close to their place of work.*

living room /'... / also **sitting room** *BrE* – *n* the main room in a house where people usu. sit and do things together, usu. apart from eating – compare DRAWING ROOM, FRONT ROOM, LOUNGE, PARLOUR (2)

living stan-dard /'... ,.../ also **living standards** – *n* [P] STANDARD OF LIVING

Liv-ing-ston /'lɪvɪŋstən/ a town in central SE Scotland, redeveloped as a NEW TOWN in 1962

Liv-ing-stone¹ /'lɪvɪŋstən, -stəʊn/, **Doctor David** (1813–73) a Scottish MISSIONARY and EXPLORER of Africa; the first European to see the Zambezi River and the Victoria Falls. A JOURNALIST, Henry Stanley, who did not know

with furniture. | (fig.) *They loaded me with presents.* —see also **LADEN** **2** [T] to put bullets, etc. into (a gun) or film into (a camera): *Don't move! This gun is loaded.* **3** [T] to put a PROGRAM into (a computer): *You'll have to load the program before you can play the game.*

load sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr* v [T (with)] to cause or force to carry heavy things: *I was loaded down with books* (fig.) *with all my worries.* —compare **WEIGH down**

load·ed /'ləʊdɪd/ *adj* **1** unfairly favouring one side: *a loaded statement* | *The argument was loaded in his favour.* **2** *usu. derog* (of a question) put in such a way as to suggest a particular answer **3** [F] *sl* having lots of money: *Let him pay: he's loaded!* **4** [F] *sl* drunk **5** (of DICE) weighted so that they fall in only a certain way: *a pair of loaded dice meant to roll double sevens*

load·ing /'ləʊdɪŋ/ *n* an additional amount added to the cost of insurance because of a special risk

loading gauge /'ləʊdɪŋ ɡeɪʒ/ *n* the limit on the amount that can be loaded on to a railway WAGON

Loads-a-mon·ey /'ləʊdzəməni/ *n* an amusing British television character invented by Harry Enfield who talks proudly about always having lots of money

load·star /'ləʊdstɑːr/ *n* a LODESTAR

load·stone /'ləʊdstəʊn/ *n* a LODESTONE

loaf /'ləʊf/ *n* **loaves** /ləʊvz/ **1** [C] a single mass of bread shaped and baked in one piece, which is *usu.* fairly large and can be cut into SLICES: *a loaf of bread* —compare **ROLL** **2** (4) —see also **FRENCH LOAF**

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Most people know the Bible story in which Jesus was able to feed 5000 people with only five loaves and two fishes. ◀

2 [C;U] (*usu. in comb.*) food (e.g. a sweet or SAVOURY mixture) prepared in a solid piece: (a) *meat loaf* | *a slice of walnut loaf* **3** *half a loaf is better than none/no bread* it is better to have half of something than nothing at all **4** *BrE old-fash sl* use one's loaf to behave (more) sensibly

loaf ² v [I (ABOUT, AROUND)] *infml* to waste time, esp. by not working when one should

loaf·er /'ləʊfə/ *n* **1** someone who loafs **2** a light shoe with a flat bottom and leather top that you slip your foot into

loam /ləʊm/ *n* [U] good quality soil made of sand, clay, and decayed plant material —**loamy** *adj*

loan /ləʊn/ *n* **1** something which is lent, esp. money: *a £1000 loan* | *We took out a loan* (=borrowed some money) *to expand the business.* | *How much interest do they charge on loans?* **2** the act of lending; permission to borrow: *She offered me the loan of her car.* **3** *on loan* being borrowed, as a book is from a library: *This picture is on loan from the Louvre to the National Gallery.*

loan ² v [T (to)] **1** *esp. AmE* to give (someone) the use of (something); lend: [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Can you loan me your tennis racket?* **2** to lend (esp. something valuable) for a long period: *She loaned her collection of paintings to the gallery.* —compare **BORROW**

loan cap·i·tal /'ləʊn kəpɪtəl/ *n* [U] the money a company has borrowed, either on a MORTGAGE or by the ISSUE of DEBENTURES

lo and be·hold /ləʊ ənd biːhəʊld/ *interj infml* (an expression of surprise at something unexpected): *She had looked everywhere for her key when lo and behold there it was in her bag!*

loan shark /'ləʊn ʃɑːk/ *n* *derog* someone who lends money at unreasonably high INTEREST rates

loan·word /'ləʊnwɜːd/ *n* a word taken into one language from another: *In English there are loanwords from many other languages.*

loath, loth /ləʊθ/ *adj* **1** [F+to-v] unwilling; RELUCTANT: *I've had this old car a long time; I'm loath to part with it.* **2** *nothing loath* *lit* quite willing

loathe /ləʊð/ v [T *not in progressive forms*] to feel hatred or great dislike for: *He is loathed by most of his staff because of his unfairness and ruthlessness.* [+v-ing] *I loathe having to get up so early in the morning!*

loath·ing /'ləʊðɪŋ/ *n* [S;U] hatred; a feeling of DISGUST

loath·some /'ləʊðsəm/ *adj* which causes loathing; extremely unpleasant: *the loathsome smell of rotting flesh* —*~ly* *adv* —*~ness* *n* [U]

loaves /ləʊvz/ *pl.* of **LOAF** ¹

lob ¹ /lɒb||ləb/ *n* [C] (in sports, esp. TENNIS) a ball hit or thrown in a slow high curve

lob ² v -bb- [T] to send (a ball) in a lob: *She lobbed the ball high over her opponent's head.*

lob·by ¹ /'lɒbi||'ləbi/ *n* **1** a wide hall or passage which leads from the entrance to the rooms inside a public building: *the hotel lobby* —compare **FOYER** **2** (in the British Parliament) a hall where members of parliament and the public meet **b** either of two passages where members go to vote for or against something **3** [+sing./pl. v] a group of people who try to persuade a Member of Parliament, a member of Congress, or public official to support or oppose certain actions: *The minister was met by a lobby of industrialists.* —see also **LOBBY** ² **4** [+sing./pl. v] a group of people who unite for or against a planned action in an attempt to persuade those in power to change their minds: *The clean-air lobby is/are against the plans for the new factory.* | *a powerful anti-smoking lobby*

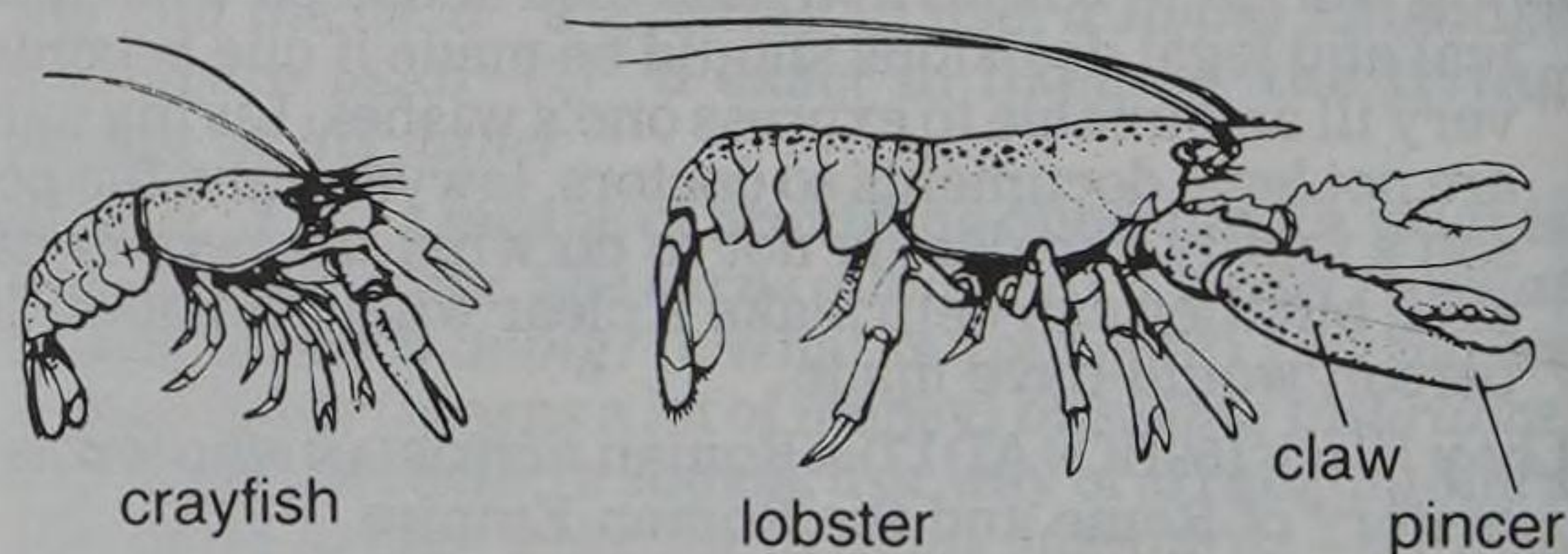
lobby ² v [I (for, against); T] to meet or attempt to influence (someone with political power) in order to persuade them to support one's actions, needs, or beliefs. In Britain **PRESSURE GROUPS** (=groups who want a particular change in the law) lobby members of parliament to try to achieve what they want. In the US, **lobbyists** lobby Congress to try to achieve their aims: *They are lobbying for a reduction in defence spending.* [+obj+to-v] *We are lobbying our MP to support the new law.*

Lobby cor·re·spon·dent /'ləʊbɪ kɒrɪsˌpɒndənt/ also **Lobby jour·nal·ist** /'ləʊbɪ ˌjɜːnlɪst/ *n* a newspaper writer or broadcaster who is allowed to work in the British parliament

lobe /ləʊb/ *n* **1** also **earlobe**—the round fleshy piece at the bottom of the ear —see picture at **HEAD** **2** *tech* a rounded division of an organ, esp. of the brain or lungs —see picture at **HEAD** —**lobed** /ləʊbd/ *adj*

lo·bot·o·my /ləʊ'bɒtəmi, lə-||-'bɑː-/ also **leucotomy** *BrE*—*n* (an operation for) the cutting away of part of the brain in order to make violent or uncontrolled PATIENTS calm. The operation is performed less often now than formerly because it has an effect on the person's ability to think and make decisions. —**mize, -mise** v [T]

lobster



lob·ster /'lɒbstə||'ləb-/ *n* **1** [C] a large eight-legged sea animal with a shell and two large CLAWS. Its meat is quite expensive, and can be eaten after boiling, when the shell turns bright red. **2** [U] lobster meat as food

lob·ster·pot /'lɒbstəpt||'ləbstəpɑːt/ *n* a trap shaped like a basket, in which lobsters are caught

lo·cal ¹ /'ləʊkəl/ *adj* **1** of, in, or serving the needs of, a certain place or area, esp. the place one lives in: *the/our local doctor* | *local news* | *a local radio station* **2** *tech* limited to one part, esp. of the body: *a local infection* | *a local anaesthetic* —see also **LOCALLY**; see **TOPICAL (USAGE)**

local ² *n infml* **1** [often pl.] someone who lives in the area where one finds them: *I asked one of the locals which way to go.* **2** *BrE* a PUB near where one lives, esp. a pub which one often drinks at: *having a pint in/at his local* —see also **PUB** **3** *esp. AmE* a bus, train, etc., that stops at all regular stopping places —compare **EXPRESS** ² (1) **4** *AmE* a branch of a trade union

lo·cal /ləʊ 'kæl/ *adj* **LOW-CAL**

local ar·e·a net·work /ləʊ ˌeɪə ˌnetwɜːk/ *n* see **LAN**

local au·thor·i·ty /ləʊ ˌɔːθərɪti/ *n* [C + sing./pl. v] in Britain, the government for the city, town, or area, responsible for services such as schools and street-cleaning: *cuts in local authority spending*

local col·our /ləʊ ˌkɔːlə/ *n* [U] additional details in a story or picture which are true to the place being represented, making it seem real

local coun·cil /ləʊ ˌkaʊnsl/ *n* a small division of British local government, responsible for providing services e.g.

housing and RECREATION in a particular area, usu. a town
local der-by /lɒl 'dɜː/ *n* BrE a football match between two teams from the same area

lo-cale /ləʊ'keɪl/ *n* fml a place where something particular happens or is done: *We must choose a suitable locale for the outdoor scenes in the film.*

Local Ed-u-ca-tion Au-thor-i-ty /lɒl 'ɛdʊkəʃn ɔːθərɪti/ also LEA—*n* [C+sing./pl.v] the organisation which in Britain is responsible for schools and colleges in a particular area and pays the wages of the teachers in that area—compare SCHOOL DISTRICT

local e-lec-tions /lɒl 'iːlɪʃnz/ *n* [P] (in Britain) elections in which COUNCILLORS are chosen for a local government area

local gov-ern-ment /lɒl 'gʌvənmənt/ *n* [C;U] the government of cities, towns, etc.—see also extra information on page 568

local health au-thor-i-ty /lɒl 'heɪlθ ɔːθərɪti/ *n* (in Britain) an organization which controls hospitals and medical services in a particular area, e.g. a COUNTY¹

local his-tor-i-an /lɒl 'hɪstərɪən/ *n* a person who studies the history of a particular area, usu. the one where she/he lives

local his-to-ry /lɒl 'hɪstri/ *n* [U] the history of a particular area: *She knows a lot about local history—she'll be able to tell you when these houses were built.*

lo-cal-i-ty /ləʊ'kælɪti/ *n* rather fml a particular area; DISTRICT: *There are several cinemas in the locality.* (=near the place being spoken of)

lo-cal-ized also **-ised** BrE /'ləʊkəlaɪzd/ *adj* esp. fml or tech (esp. of something undesirable) within a small area: *a localized infection* | *localized outbreaks of fighting*

lo-cal-ly /'ləʊkəli/ *adv* **1** in a local area: *Most of the country will be dry, but there may be some rain locally.* (=in particular areas) **2** near the place one is talking about: *We have no shops locally.* | *I live locally, so it's easy to get to this office.*

local op-tion /lɒl 'ɒpʃən/ *n* BrE the right which a part of a country may have to decide whether alcohol should be sold in that area

local pa-per /lɒl 'peɪpə/ also **local rag** /lɒl 'ræg/ BrE infml—*n* a newspaper which gives the news and carries advertisements from people and businesses in the area where it is published (PUBLISH): *Where's the local paper?* | *I want to see what's on at the pictures.* | *My daughter's wedding was in the local paper.*

local ra-di-o /lɒl 'reɪdɪəʊ/ *n* [U] the group of radio stations operated by the BBC or the IBA which broadcast programmes esp. intended for a particular small area, e.g. local news and programmes of interest to local people: *The village fete was advertised on local radio.*

local time /lɒl 'taɪm/ *n* [U] the time system in a particular part of the world: *We will arrive in New York at ten o'clock local time.*

lo-cate /ləʊ'keɪt/ v fml **1** [T] to find the position of: *We've located the source of the signals, sir.* **2** [T+obj+adv/prep; usu. pass.] to fix or set in a certain place; SITUATE: *The house is located by the river.* | *The offices are conveniently located in the centre of town.* **3** [I+adv/prep] AmE to come and establish oneself or itself: *The firm finally located in Dallas.*

lo-ca-tion /ləʊ'keɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] rather fml a particular place or position: *a suitable location for a camp*—see POSITION (USAGE) **2** [C;U] a place outside or away from a film STUDIO, where one or more scenes are made for a film: *It was difficult to find a suitable location.* | *Most of the film was shot on location in Africa.* **3** [U] the act of locating or state of being located: *the location of the plane by radar*

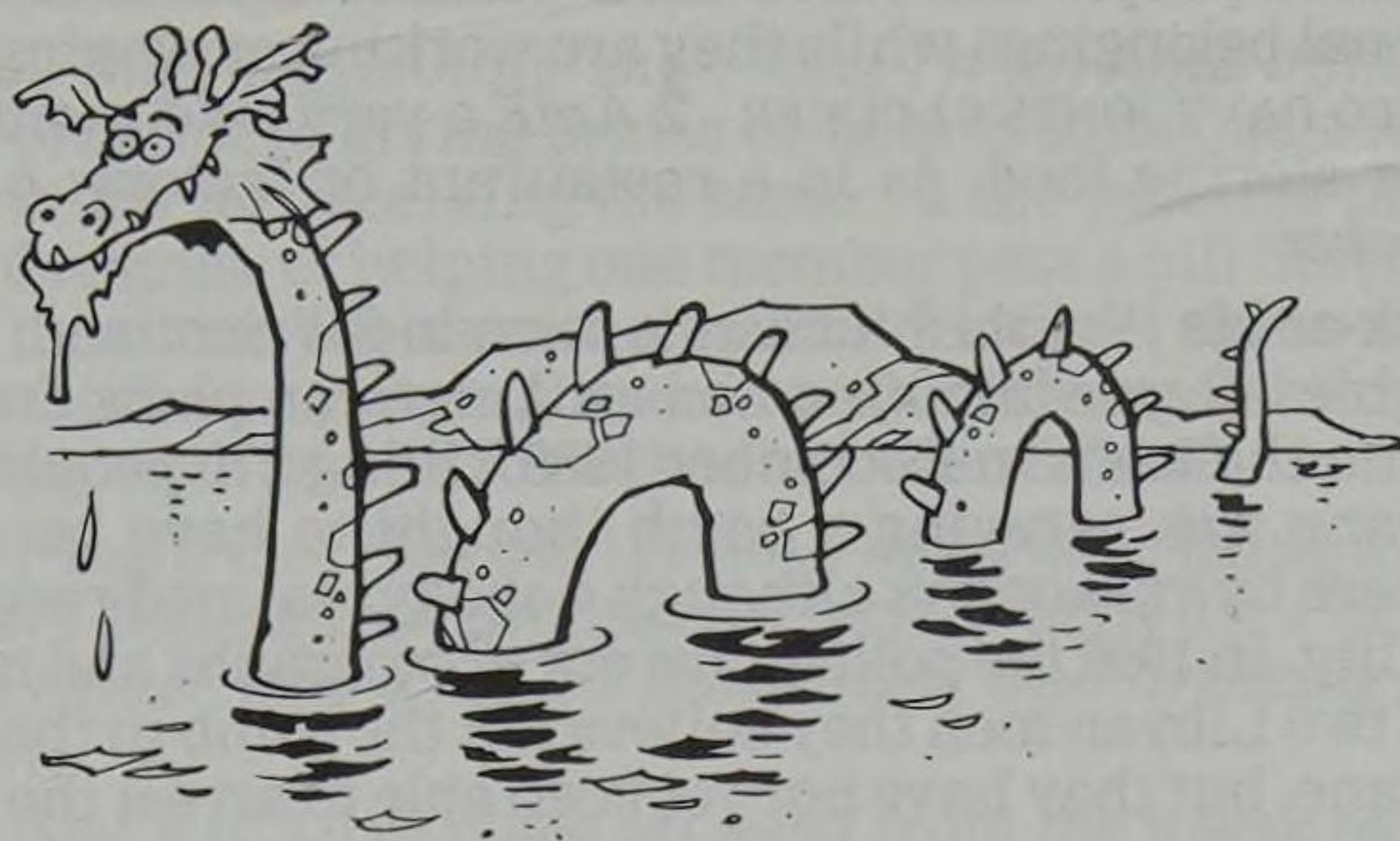
loch /lɒx, lɒk/ *n* ScotE **1** a lake **2** a part of the sea partly enclosed by land

Loch Lo-mond /lɒx 'ləʊmənd, 'lɒk-/ a lake in W Scotland near Glasgow, popular with tourists. There is a well-known old song about Loch Lomond which contains the words:

*For me and my true love will never meet again
 On the bonnie bonnie banks o' Loch Lomond.*

Loch Ness Mon-ster /lɒx nes 'mɒnstə, 'lɒk-/ also **Nessie**—[the] the name given to a very large animal, supposed to live in **Loch Ness** (a large, very deep lake in N Scotland), which people say does not look like any other animal alive today. Although some people

the Loch Ness Monster



believe the Loch Ness Monster really exists and say they have seen it, there is no scientific proof, and for most people it is just a story. It is often shown in pictures etc. as a creature like a large black or green DINOSAUR.

lo-ci /'ləʊsaɪ/ *pl.* of LOCUS

lock ¹ /lɒk/ *n* **1** [C] an apparatus for closing and fastening something, usu. by means of a key: *Turn the key in the lock to open the door.* | *After the burglary she had all the locks changed.* | *a childproof lock on the car doors*—see also COMBINATION LOCK and see picture at CAR **2** [C] a stretch of water closed off by gates, esp. on a CANAL, so that the water level can be raised or lowered to move boats up or down a slope: *The lock keeper closed the lock gates.* **3** [C] a hold which some fighters can use, esp. wrestlers (WRESTLE), to prevent their opponent from moving: *an arm lock* **4** [U] (in a machine) the state of being stopped in such a way that operation is not possible: *in the lock position* **5** [C;U] esp. BrE the degree to which a STEERING WHEEL can be turned to change the direction of travel: *full lock* **6** **lock, stock, and barrel** (of an act that has an effect on several things) completely: *We had to sell all our possessions/the whole company, lock, stock, and barrel.* **7** **under lock and key**: a safely hidden and fastened in b imprisoned

lock ² *v* **1** [I;T] to fasten with a lock: *Lock the door.* | *The door won't lock.* **2** [T+obj+adv/prep] to put in a safe place and lock the entrance or opening: *She locked her jewels in the safe.* **3** [T+obj+adv/prep; usu. pass.] to hold or fasten firmly: *The two fighters were locked together.* | *The lovers were locked in a deep embrace.* | (fig.) *We found ourselves locked into a senseless dispute with the management.* **4** [I] to become fixed or blocked: *I can't control the car: the wheels have locked.* (=cannot be turned or moved)—**able** *adj* **5** infml **lock horns** to fight or argue with someone: *She locked horns with him over the subject of equal pay for women.*

lock sbdy./sthg. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] to LOCK up (2, 4): *We locked all our valuables away before we went on holiday.*

lock sbdy./sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] to put or keep (esp. a person or animal) in an enclosed place and prevent them from leaving, esp. by locking a door: *Help me, somebody—I'm locked in!*

lock onto sthg. *phr v* [T] (esp. of a MISSILE) to find and follow closely (the object to be attacked)

lock sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** [(of)] to keep out of a place by locking the entrance: *I forgot my key and found myself locked out of my flat.* **2** *usu. derog* to prevent (workers) from entering a place of work until a disagreement is settled as the employers want it—see also LOCKOUT

lock up *phr v* **1** [I;T (=lock sthg. ↔ up)] to make (a building) safe by locking the doors, esp. for the night: *Lock (the house) up when you leave.* **2** [T] (lock sthg. ↔ up) also **lock away**—to put in a safe place and fasten the lock: *Lock it up in a drawer.* **3** [T] (lock sthg. ↔ up) to put (money) where it cannot easily be moved or changed into CASH: *All our money is locked up in foreign companies.* **4** [T] (lock sbdy. ↔ up) also **lock away**—infml a to put in prison—see also LOCKUP b to put (someone) in a special hospital for mad people: *She's crazy; she ought to be locked up!*

lock ³ *n* a small piece of hair: *She keeps a lock of his hair.*—see also LOCKS

Locke /lɒk/ *n*, **John** (1632–1704) an English PHILOSOPHER whose ideas on religious and political freedom were influential, esp. in France and the US, where they influenced the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

lock-er /'lɒkə/ *n* **1** a small cupboard for keeping

things in, esp. in a school, factory, or sports building where people can leave their outdoor clothes and personal belongings while they are working or playing — see also DAVY JONES'S LOCKER **2** *AmE* a very cold room used for storing food, as in a restaurant or factory: *a meat locker*

Lock-er-bie /'lɒkəbi/ || 'lɒkər-/ a town in SW Scotland. Lockerbie became famous when an American plane crashed onto the town in December 1988 killing 270 people. The plane was carrying a bomb thought to have been put there by TERRORISTS although nobody claimed responsibility. In 1992 the police gave out photographs and names of two Libyan men they believe put the bomb in the aeroplane, but they have not yet been able to arrest the men.

locker room /'lɒkər ru:m/ *n* a place where lots of lockers are kept, esp. in a sports building, for leaving clothes in

lock-et /'lɒkɪt/ || 'lɒk-/ *n* a small piece of jewellery for the neck, consisting of a metal case usu. on a chain in which small pictures or locks of hair can be kept

Lock-heed Cor-po-ra-tion /'lɒkhi:d kɔ:pə, reɪʃən/ || 'lɒkhi:d kɔ:r-/ an American company that makes aircraft and AEROSPACE products

lock-jaw /'lɒkdʒɔ:/ || 'lɒk-/ *n* [U] *infml* for TETANUS

lock keep-er /'lɒk ki:pər/ *n* a person whose job is to open and close the gates of a LOCK¹ (2) on a river or CANAL

lock-out /'lɒk-aʊt/ || 'lɒk-/ *n* the action by an employer of not allowing workers to go back to work, esp. in a factory, until they accept an agreement — see also LOCK out (2); compare STRIKE² (1)

locks /lɒks/ || lɒks/ *n* [P] *poet* the hair of the head: "Her locks were yellow as gold ... " (Coleridge, *The Ancient Mariner*) | *flowing locks* — see also LOCK³

lock-smith /'lɒk, smɪθ/ || 'lɒk-/ *n* a person who makes and repairs locks

lock-stitch /'lɒk, stɪtʃ/ || 'lɒk-/ *n* the usual type of stitch of a sewing machine in which a thread from above the material and one from below fasten together at small distances apart

lock-up /'lɒk-ʌp/ || 'lɒk-/ *n* a prison, esp. a small one where a criminal can be kept for a short time, as in a village or small town — see also LOCK up (4a)

lock-up gar-age /'lɒk-ʌp, ɡəˈrɑːʒ/ || 'lɒk-ʌp, ɡəˈrɑːʒ/ *n* a garage (=a place to keep cars etc.) which is separate from the user's house, is usu. one of a set of such garages built together, and can be locked up. People whose house does not have its own garage often rent a lock-up garage: *a block of council flats with a row of lock-up garages behind it*

lo-co /'ləʊkəʊ/ *adj* [F] *sl*, esp. *AmE* mad; CRAZY

lo-co-mo-tion /'ləʊkə'məʊʃən/ *n* [U] *tech* movement; ability to move

lo-co-mo-tive /'ləʊkə'məʊtɪv/ *n* *fml* or *AmE* a railway engine

locomotive² *adj tech* concerning or causing movement: *locomotive power*

lo-co-weed /'ləʊkəʊwi:d/ *n* an American plant which causes disease in animals if eaten

lo-cum /'ləʊkəm/ *n* esp. *BrE* someone, esp. a person in healthcare work, who does another person's job for a limited time: *While our doctor was on holiday his locum treated us.*

lo-cus /'ləʊkəs/ *n* -ci /'ləʊsaɪ/ *tech* or *fml* a position or point, esp. where something happens or can be found

locus clas-si-cus /'ləʊkəs 'klæsɪkəs/ *n* *loci classici* /'ləʊsaɪ 'klæsɪsaɪ/ *Lat, fml* a passage from a written work which has become well known in connection with a particular subject and is often mentioned

lo-cust /'ləʊkəst/ *n* an Asian and African insect which flies from place to place in large groups, eating and destroying crops over large areas: *a swarm of locusts* — see picture at INSECT

► **CULTURAL NOTE** A Bible story tells how God punished the Egyptians by sending a PLAGUE of locusts. ◀

lo-cu-tion /ləʊ'kju:ʃən/ *n* *fml* or *tech* **1** a way of speaking **2** a phrase, esp. one used locally or within a special group of people

lode /ləʊd/ *n* *tech* an amount of metal in its natural form (ORE)

lode-star, **load-** /'ləʊdstɑːr/ *n* esp. *lit* **1** the POLE STAR, used as a guide by sailors **2** a guide or example to follow

lode-stone, **load-** /'ləʊdstəʊn/ *n* [C;U] (a piece of) iron which acts as a MAGNET

lodge¹ /lɒdʒ/ || lɑːdʒ/ *v* **1** [I+adv/prep] *fml* to stay, usu. for a short time in return for paying rent: *to lodge at a friend's house/with friends* **2** [T] esp. *BrE* to give or find (someone) a home for a time, usu. for payment: *We lodge students during term time.* **3** [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to (cause to) settle or become fixed firmly in a position: *A small chicken bone lodged in his throat, and had to be removed by a doctor.* | *The bullet became lodged in her spine.* — see also DISLODGE **4** [T (with)] to make (a statement or report) officially to an official person or body: *to lodge a complaint/a protest/an appeal* **5** [T+obj+adv/prep] to put into a safe or proper place: *The surveyor's report was lodged with the building society.*

lodge² *n* **1** a room for a person who is responsible for seeing who enters a building, as in a block of flats or a college: *the porter's lodge* **2** a [+sing./pl. v] a local branch of some types of social club: *a Masonic lodge* **b** the building where this branch meets **3** a small house for hunters, skiers (SKI²), etc., to stay in while crossing wild country or mountains — compare CHALET (2) **4** a small house on the land of a larger house **5** a BEAVER'S home **6** *AmE* a WIGWAM **7** *AmE* a hotel building at a RESORT or in the mountains

Lodge¹, **David** (1935–) an English NOVELIST known for his humorous books such as *Changing Places* and *Small World*

Lodge², **David** (1921–) an English theatre and television actor

lodg-er /'lɒdʒər/ || 'lɒz-/ also **roomer** *AmE* — *n* a person who pays rent to stay in someone's house

lodg-ing /'lɒdʒɪŋ/ || 'lɒz-/ *n* [S;U] a place to stay: *a night's lodging* | *to find lodging* — compare BOARD¹ (3); see also LODGINGS

lodging house /'lɒdʒɪŋ haʊs/ || 'lɒz-/ also **rooming house** *AmE* — *n* a building where rooms may be rented for days or weeks

lodg-ings /'lɒdʒɪŋz/ || 'lɒz-/ also **digs** *BrE infml* — *n* [P] one or more rented furnished rooms: *to stay in lodgings* — compare BOARD¹

lo-ess /'ləʊes, -ɪs/ || les, lɜːrs, 'ləʊɪs/ *n* [U] a type of soil like a yellowish powder, common in China and parts of Europe and N America

Loewe /ləʊ/, **Fred-e-ric** /'fredərɪk/ see LERNER AND LOEWE

loft¹ /lɒft/ || lɔːft/ *n* **1** a a room or space under the roof of a building; an ATTIC **b** esp. *AmE* an upper floor of a business building, esp. one that was originally a single large room used for storing things: *He's living in a converted loft in lower Manhattan.* **2** a room over a STABLE, where HAY is kept: *a hayloft* **3** *tech* a GALLERY (2) in a church: *an organ loft* **4** *tech* a quality of wool, DOWN, or SYNTHETIC materials which allows it to provide warmth: *Sleeping bags filled with synthetic fibres retain their loft when wet and so are more practical in damp conditions.*

loft² *v* [T] (esp. in cricket and GOLF) to hit (a ball) high

loft con-ver-sion /'lɒft kənˈvɜːʃən/ || 'lɒz-/ *n* rooms or a room made out of a house's LOFT (=the space under the roof), some time after the house was built: *We couldn't afford to move to a larger house, so we had a loft conversion done instead.*

Lof-ting /'lɒftɪŋ/ || 'lɔːf-, **Hugh** /hjuː/ (1886–1947) an English writer of children's books, best known for the *Doctor Dolittle* stories about a man who could talk to animals

loft-y /'lɒfti/ || 'lɔːfti/ *adj* **1** (of ideas, feelings, writing, etc.) of unusually high moral quality: *lofty aims/ideals* **2** showing that one thinks one is better than other people; HAUGHTY: *a lofty smile* | *lofty disdain* **3** esp. *lit* high: *the lofty walls of the city* — *ily adv*: *When I asked for help, he just smiled loftily and turned away.* — *iness n* [U]

log¹ /lɒg/ || lɔːg, lɑːg/ *n* **1** a thick unshaped piece of wood from a tree, either the whole trunk that has been cut down, or smaller pieces cut off: *chopping logs for the fire* | *a log fire* **2** an official written record of a journey, esp. in a ship or plane: *The captain described the accident in the ship's log.* — see also **sleep like a log** (SLEEP²)

log² *v* -gg- **1** [T] to record in a LOG¹ (2) **2** [T(UP)] (esp. of a ship or plane) to travel (a distance or length of time): *The old plane had logged (up) hundreds of hours of flying time.* **3** [T;I] *AmE* to cut down trees: *This part of the forest was logged three years ago.*

log in/on *phr v* [I] *tech* to begin a period of using a computer system by performing a fixed set of operations: *In order to log in (to the system) you have to type in a special password.*

log off/out *phr v* [I] *tech* to finish a period of using a computer system by performing a fixed set of operations

Lo-gan /'ləʊgən/, **Mount** a mountain in SW Yukon territory, the highest mountain in Canada

lo-gan-ber-ry /'ləʊgənbəri/ -beri/ *n* a soft dark-red fruit similar to a RASPBERRY

log-a-rith-m /'lɒɡərɪðəm/ 'lɔː-, 'lɑː-/ also **log** *infml*— *n* a number which represents a value (a POWER¹ (9)) of another number, and which can be used for additions instead of multiplying the original number; the number of times a fixed number (usu. 10) must be multiplied by itself to equal a stated number: *The logarithm of 100 is 2 because 10² = 100.* —compare ANTILOGARITHM —**rithmic** /'lɒɡə'rɪðmɪk/ 'lɔː-, 'lɑː-/ *adj* —**rithmically** /kli/ *adv*

log-book /'lɒgbʊk/ 'lɔːg-, 'lɑːg-/ *n* **1** *BrE* for REGISTRATION DOCUMENT **2** *AmE* for LOG¹ (2)

log cab-in /,lɒ. 'kæb.ɪn/ *n* a house, usu. a small one, made of logs of wood

log cabin



► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the US until the mid-1900s, politicians would sometimes say they had been born in a log cabin. This was supposed to tell people that they understood people's everyday problems and to suggest that they were like Abraham Lincoln, one of America's great presidents who really was born in a log cabin. ◀

loge /ləʊʒ/ *n* in a theatre or concert hall, the front part of the BALCONY: *We had seats in the loge.*

log-ger /'lɒɡər/ 'lɔː-, 'lɑː-/ *n* a person whose job is to cut down trees

log-ger-heads /'lɒɡəhedz/ 'lɔːgər-, 'lɑː-/ *n* at **loggerheads** (with) always disagreeing (with); holding completely opposing views (to)

log-gi-a /'lɒdʒiə/ 'lɔːdʒə/ *n* a sort of open-sided room at the side of a house or other building

lo-gic /'lɒdʒɪk/ 'lɑː-/ *n* [U] **1** the science or study of careful reasoning by formal methods **2** a particular way of reasoning: *I didn't follow her logic.* | *business logic* **3** *infml* reasonable thinking; good sense: *There's no logic in spending money on things you don't need.*

lo-gic-al /'lɒdʒɪkəl/ 'lɑː-/ *adj* **1** according to the rules of logic: *a logical argument* **2** having or showing good clear reasoning; sensible: *the logical thing to do* | *It's logical that people who earn more money should pay higher taxes.* —opposite **illogical**

► **USAGE** When they mean “sensible”, **logical** and **reasonable** can often be used in the same way: *It's a logical/reasonable thing to do.* **Logical** (but not **reasonable**) is used of careful thinking which follows the exact rules of logic: *Mathematics requires logical thinking.* | *She has a logical mind.* Compare a **reasonable person** (=sensible, willing to listen to others) and a **logical person/thinker** (=someone whose thinking follows a clear method). ◀

lo-gic-ally /'lɒdʒɪkli/ 'lɑː-/ *adv* **1** in a logical way: *Think logically.* **2** according to what is reasonable or logical: *Logically, one should become wiser with experience, but some people never do!*

lo-gi-cian /lə'dʒɪfən/ 'lɔː-/ *n* a person who studies or is skilled in logic

lo-gis-tics /lə'dʒɪstɪks/ 'lɔː-/ *n* **1** [P (of)] the planning and organization that is needed to carry out any large and difficult operation: *The logistics of supplying food to all the famine areas were very complex.* **2** [U] the study or skill of moving soldiers, supplying them with food, etc. —**tic** *adj* —**tically** /kli/ *adv*

log-jam /'lɒgdʒæm/ 'lɔːg-, 'lɑːg-/ *n* **1** a tightly-packed mass of floating logs on a river **2** *esp. AmE* a difficulty that prevents one from continuing; IMPASSE

lo-go /'ləʊgəʊ/ *n* -gos a small pattern or picture that is the sign of a particular organization: *The Longman logo, a small sailing ship, is on the cover of this book.*

LO-GO /'ləʊgəʊ/ *n* [U] an easy-to-use computer language often used in schools

log-roll-ing /'lɒɡ,rəʊlɪŋ/ 'lɔːg-, 'lɑːg-/ *n* [U] *AmE infml* **1** the practice of giving praise or help to someone's work in return for receiving the same **2** the practice in the US Congress of helping one member pass a bill in return for receiving the same help at a later time **3** the sport in which two people stand on and roll a log floating on water, each trying to make the other fall off

lo-gy /'lɒɡi/ 'lɔː-, 'lɑː-/ *adj* [F] *AmE infml* of or being a dull heavy feeling that produces a lack of activity: *I'm feeling rather logy after all that eating and drinking last night.*

loin /lɔɪn/ *n* [C;U] (a piece of) meat from the lower part of an animal's back —see also LOINS, SIRLOIN

loin-cloth /'lɔɪnklɒθ/ -klɔːθ/ *n* -cloths /klɒθs/ klɔːðz, klɔːθs/ a loose covering for the loins, usu. for men, worn in hot countries esp. by poor people

loins /lɔɪnz/ *n* [P] **1 a** the lower part of the body below the waist and above the legs on both sides **b** *euph* the area of the body around the sexual organs **2** the fruit of his loins *bibl* his children —see also **gird up one's loins** (GIRD)

Loire /lwaɪ/ [the] a river in central France which is famous for the many beautiful castles called châteaux (CHATEAU) along its banks and for the wine which is made in the area

loi-ter /'lɔɪtər/ v [I] **1** to stand or wait somewhere, esp. in a public place, without any clear reason: *The men were loitering near the bank suspiciously.* | (*esp. AmE*) *The sign said "No loitering."*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** **Loitering with intent** is a crime which you can be sent to prison for because it means standing and waiting for the best time to do something bad, e.g. rob a bank: *He was arrested and charged with loitering with intent.* ◀

2 to move slowly or keep stopping when one should be going forward: *Stop loitering or the other people will get there first.* — ~ **er** *n*

Lo-ki /'ləʊki/ in Norse MYTHOLOGY, the god of evil and destruction

Lo-li-ta /lə'li:tə/ a character in a book of that name by Vladimir Nabokov. *Lolita* was a young girl who was the subject of a middle-aged man's PASSION. The name is sometimes used for a girl who is too young to have SEXUAL INTERCOURSE but who does, or wishes to —see also NYMPHET

loll /lɒl/ 'lɑːl/ v **1** [I+adv/prep] to be in a lazy loose position: *She was lolling in a chair, with her arms hanging over the sides.* **2** [I;T] to (allow to) hang down loosely; DROOP: *The dog's tongue lolled out.*

lol-li-pop ||also **lollypop** *AmE* /'ləlɪpɒp/ 'lɑːlɪpɑːp/ *n* **1** also **sucker** *AmE*— a hard sweet made of boiled sugar and fixed on a stick, which is eaten by licking (LICK¹) **2** *esp. BrE* frozen juice, ice cream, etc., on a stick

lollipop man /'... / **lollipop wom-an** /'... /, **lollipop lady** *fem.*— *n* *BrE* a person whose job is to stop traffic (so that school children can cross) by turning towards the cars a stick with a sign on top showing that they should stop

lollipop lady



Lol-lo-bri-gi-da /,lələ'brɪdʒɪdə/ 'lɑːl-, **Gi-na** /'dʒɪ:nə/ (1927–) an Italian film actress well known for playing GLAMOROUS parts

lol-lop /'lələp/ 'lɑː-/ v [I+adv/prep] *infml* to move with long ungraceful steps: *He fired a warning shot and the elephant lolloped off.*

lol-ly /'ləli/ 'lɑːli/ *n* *BrE* **1** [C] *infml* a lollipop: *an ice lolly* **2** [U] *sl* money

Lom-bar-di /lɒm'bɑːdi/ 'lɑːm'bɑːr-, **Vince** /vɪns/ (1913–70) an American football COACH whose team won the first two SUPERBOWLS

Lom-bard Street /'lɒmbəd stri:t/ 'lɑːmbərd-/ a street in the

city of London known for financial and banking activity

Lon·don /'lʌndən/ the capital city of Great Britain. It is in south-east England on the river Thames and is an important port and a centre for business, industry, and TOURISM —see also CHANGING OF THE GUARD, CITY, INNER LONDON, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, see picture at ESTUARY and colour maps on pages 817 and 818

London, Jack (1876–1916) an American writer whose books include *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*

London Bank·ers' Clear·ing House /,lʌndən 'bi:ŋkəz klɪəɪŋ haʊs/ an organization owned by the large banks, which processes daily all the cheque TRANSACTIONS of the member banks to find out how much is owed by and to each bank

London Blitz /,lʌndən 'blɪts/ [the] the period of heavy German bombing of London during the Second World War, esp. in 1940 —see BLITZ (CULTURAL NOTE)

London Bridge /,lʌndən 'brɪdʒ/ 1 a bridge over the river Thames in London, connecting Southwark and the City. London Bridge is famous because of a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children) called *London Bridge is Falling Down*. A new bridge was built in 1968 and the old one was sold and sent to a city in the US state of Arizona, where TOURISTS go to see it. 2 one of the mainline railway stations in London

London Col·i·se·um /,lʌndən kɒlɪ'si:əm/ [the] a large theatre in London, where the English National Opera is based

Lon·don·der·ry /'lʌndəndəri/ also **Derry**— 1 the second largest city in Northern Ireland —see colour map on page 818

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Like Belfast, Londonderry is often in the news because of violence between Protestants and Catholics. The city is called Londonderry because of its historical associations with the City of London. —see also IRA, TROUBLES ◀

2 a former COUNTY of Northern Ireland

Lon·don·er /'lʌndənə/ *n* a person who lives in or was born in London —compare COCKNEY

London Li·bra·ry /,lʌndən 'laɪbrəri/ [the] a library in central London, well-known for its reading room and thousands of books

London Mar·a·thon /,lʌndən 'mæθən/ [the] a long foot race run every year in London in which both professionals and non-professionals take part, many earn money for CHARITY —compare FUN RUN

London Pal·la·di·um /,lʌndən pə'leɪdiəm/ [the] a theatre in London, noted for MUSICALS and VARIETY (4) shows

London Phil·har·mon·ic Or·ches·tra /,lʌndən 'fɪlhərmənɪk ɔr'kestrə/ *abbrev* LPO [the] a top British SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (=large group of musicians)

London Re·gion·al Trans·port /,lʌndən 'reɪʃənəl trænspɔ:t/ also **London Transport**—, *abbrev* LRT a public company responsible for public TRANSPORT in and around London. It runs the UNDERGROUND, most of the buses, and the Docklands Light Railway.

London School of E·co·nom·ics /,lʌndən 'sku:l əv i:kənəmɪks/ *abbrev* LSE [the] a college, part of London University, where people can study ECONOMICS and politics.

London Sea·son /,lʌndən 'si:zən/ [the] a programme of social events taking place every year in or near London and attended esp. formerly by UPPER-CLASS people, including parties for DEBUTANTES, the horse races at Ascot, Henley Regatta, and other events —see also ASCOT, HENLEY REGATTA

London Sym·pho·ny Or·ches·tra /,lʌndən 'sɪmfənɪ ɔr'kestrə/ *abbrev* LSO [the] a top ORCHESTRA (=group of musicians) based at the Barbican in London

London Trans·port /,lʌndən 'trænspɔ:t/ see LONDON REGIONAL TRANSPORT

London U·ni·ver·sity /,lʌndən 'ju:nɪvərsəti/ also **The University of**

London the third oldest university in England. It is a combination of many different colleges and offers an examination system which allows students overseas to take its DEGREES.

London weight·ing /,lʌndən 'weɪtɪŋ/ *n* [U] an additional payment added to the SALARY of a person who works in London, because of the higher cost of housing, TRANSPORT, etc. in the capital: *The salary includes London weighting.*

London Zoo /,lʌndən 'zəʊ/ a large old zoo in London's Regent's Park and Britain's best-known zoo. As well as keeping and breeding many different animals and birds it studies wild animals and the things that have an effect on the way they live. In the 1990s it began to have severe financial problems.

lone /ləʊn/ *adj* [A] *lit or fml* 1 without other people or things; on one's own or on its own: *a lone rider* | *lone mothers on income support* —see ALONE (USAGE) 2

Loneliness of the Long Dis·tance Run·ner /,ləʊnlɪnəs əv ðə lɒŋ dɪ'stəns rʌnər/ *The* a short story by Alan Sillitoe (1959) describing the REBELLION of a boy living in a BORSTAL, who is a very good runner but who deliberately loses an important race as a protest. It was made into a successful film.

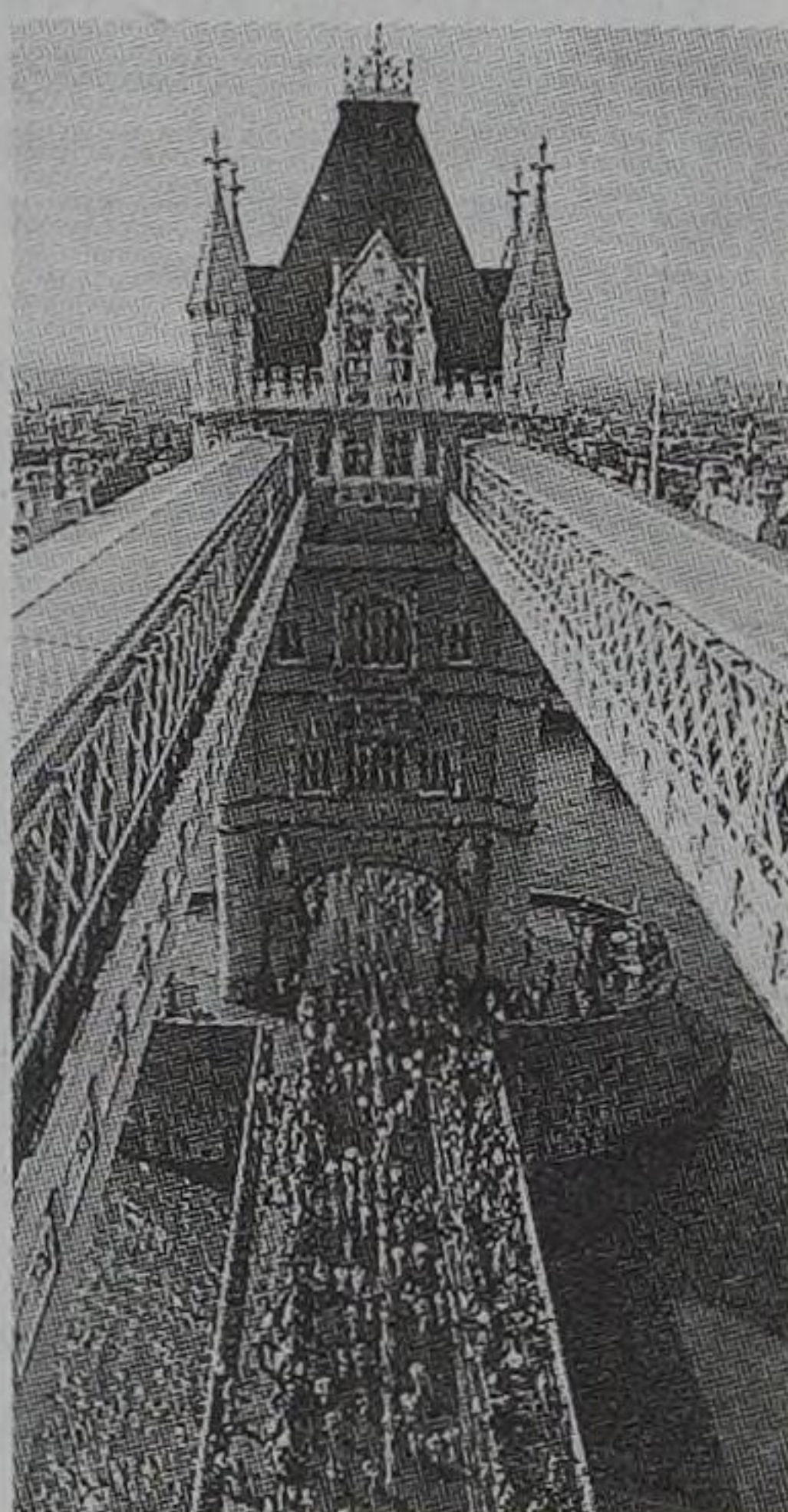
lone·ly /'ləʊnli/ *adj* 1 unhappy because of being alone or without friends: *He has been very/desperately lonely since his wife left him.* 2 a (of a building or other object) with no others of the same type near: *a lonely house in the country* b esp. *lit* (of a place) without people; unvisited: *the lonely hillsides* —see ALONE (USAGE) —**liness** *n* [U]

lonely hearts /,ləʊnli 'hɑ:ts/ *adj, n* [A] (for) people who wish to find a friend or lover: *a lonely hearts club/column*

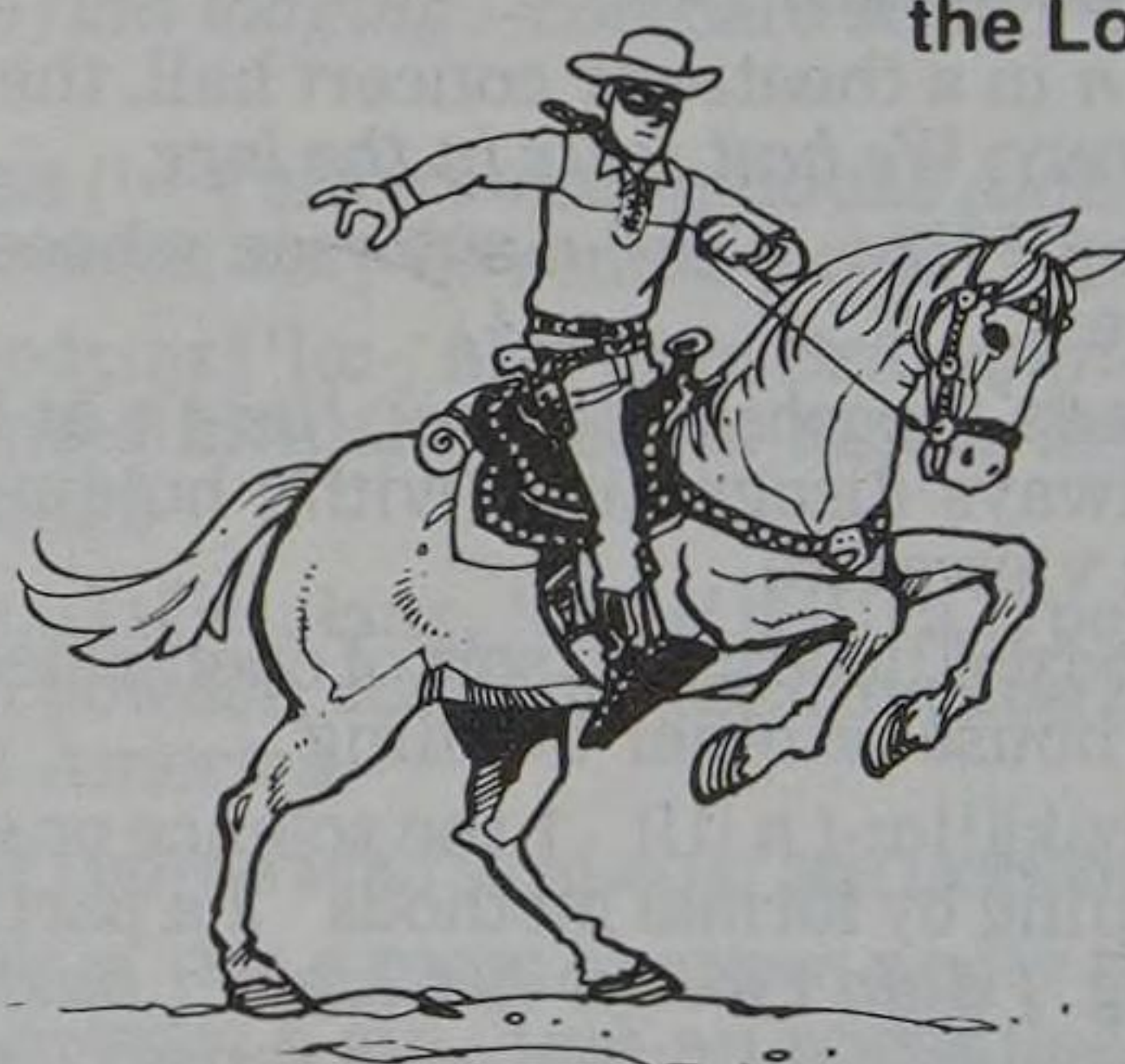
lone pa·rent /,ləʊn 'peɪrnt/ *n* see SINGLE PARENT

lon·er /'ləʊnə/ *n* a person who spends a lot of time alone, esp. by choice; LONE WOLF

London Marathon



the Lone Ranger



Lone Rang·er /,ləʊn 'ræŋgə/ [the] a character on an American television programme (a WESTERN²) of that name who wore a MASK to cover his face, rode a horse called Silver, and went with his NATIVE AMERICAN friend Tonto to protect people and prevent crimes. Several sentences from this programme are known to most British and American people: at the end of the show, someone the Lone Ranger had either helped or put in JAIL often said, "Who was that masked man?"; Tonto called the Lone Ranger "Kemo sabe"; and the Lone Ranger always said to his horse, "Hi ho Silver away!"

lone·some /'ləʊnsəm/ *adj infml, esp. AmE* 1 lonely: *She is lonesome without the children.* 2 which makes one feel lonely: *a long lonesome road* —see ALONE (USAGE) 3 on/by one's lonesome alone: *She's all by her lonesome as her husband's away.*

lone wolf /,ləʊn 'wɒlf/ *n* someone who likes to live, work, etc., alone

long /lɒŋ/ *adj* 1 a measuring a large, or larger than average, amount from one end to the other: *long hair* | *a long road* | *She wore a long dress, reaching down to her feet.* b covering or lasting a great, or greater than average, distance or time: *a long illness/journey* | *We're a long way from home.* | *She's taking a long time to get here.* | (fig.) *Medical research has come a long way* (=made a lot of PROGRESS) *towards finding a cure for the disease.* —opposite **short** 2 covering a certain distance from one end to the other or a certain time: *How long is the film?* [after *n*] *It's an hour long.* | *The garden is 20 metres long and 15 metres wide.* 3 seeming to last more than usual or more than is wished: *I've had a long day;* (=with a lot of tiring work to do) *I need a drink!* 4 (of memory) able to remember things far back in time —opposite **short** 5

(of a probability or BET) with a high risk of failing or not happening: *The odds against him winning are rather long.* (=he will probably lose) —see also **LONG SHOT** **6** [A] (of a drink) cool, containing little or no alcohol, and served in a tall glass: *I'm really thirsty — I'd like a nice long drink.* **7** (of a vowel) lasting longer than a short vowel in the same position **8** *how long is a piece of string?* *humor* a phrase said as a reply to a question, the answer to which seems completely uncertain: *"How many people are likely to turn up?" "How long is a piece of string?"* **9** *long in the tooth* *infml* old **10** *long on* *infml*, rather old-fash with a lot of (a quality): *He's long on (good) looks, but short on brains.* **11** *long time no see* *infml* an informal greeting used when you have not seen someone for a long time **12** *not by a 'long chalk/shot* *infml* not at all; not nearly: *"Is it ready yet?" "No, not by a long chalk."* —see also **in the long run** (**RUN**²), **in the long term** (**TERM**¹), **take the long view** (**VIEW**¹)

long² *adv* **1** (for) a long time: *How long will he be?* (=When will he come, finish what he is doing, etc.?) *I can't wait much longer.* | *Stay as long as you like.* | *He hasn't been back long.* | *Don't be long about (doing) it.* | *It was not long before we realized our mistake.* | *It won't take long to finish the job.* **2** [+adv/prep] at a long time: *long ago and far away* | *not long after that* (=a short time after) **3** *as/so long as* if; on condition that; PROVIDED: *You can go out, as long as you promise to be back before 11 o'clock.* | *Our profits will be good so long as the dollar remains strong.* **4** *no longer/(not) any longer* (not) any more; (formerly but not) now: *He no longer lives here.* | *He doesn't live here any longer.* | *I used to smoke 20 cigarettes a day, but not any longer!* **5** *so long* *infml*, esp. AmE goodbye

long³ *n* **1** *before long* also *ere long* *lit*— after a short period of time; soon: *They came back before long.* **2** *for long* (in questions or negatives) for a long time: *Were you there for long?* | *I can't stay for long.* **3** *the long and (the) short of it* *infml* the general result, expressed in a few words; UPSHOT: *I won't go into details, but the long and the short of it was that we missed the train.*

long⁴ *v* [T+to-v; obj] to want something very much: *I'm longing to see her again.* —see also **LONGING**^{1,2}

long for sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] to want very much: *to long for freedom* [+obj+to-v] *I'm longing for him to arrive.* | *The longed-for day at last arrived.*

long⁵ *written abbrev. for:* LONGITUDE

Long, Hu-ey Pierce /'hju:ɪ piəs||-piərs/ (1893–1935) an American politician, governor of Louisiana (1928–31) who was murdered

Long. *written abbrev. for:* Longford

long-awaited /,lɒŋə'teɪd/ *adj* that has been waited for a long time: *We finally got our long-awaited pay rise.*

long-boat /'lɒŋbəʊt||'lɒŋ-/ *n* the largest type of ROWING BOAT carried by a sailing ship —compare **LONGSHIP**

long-bow /'lɒŋbəʊ||'lɒŋ-/ *n* a large powerful BOW³ for shooting ARROWS, esp. as made in former times from a single long thin curved piece of wood (like the one used by the English HERO Robin Hood) —compare **CROSSBOW**

long-dis-tance¹ /,lɒŋ'dɪstəns/ *adj* [A] covering a long distance: *a long-distance runner/race*

long-distance² *adv* to or from a distant point: *to phone long-distance*

long-distance call /,lɒŋ'dɪstəns kɔ:l/ also **trunk call** BrE *old-fash*— *n* a telephone call made over a long distance

long dis-tance foot-path /,lɒŋ'dɪstəns fu:t pæθ/ *n* a public path in Britain going for many miles, such as the Pennine Way, used esp. by tourists and walkers

long di-vi-sion /,lɒŋ'dɪvɪʒən/ *n* [U] a method of dividing large numbers by others in which each stage is written out below the one before

long-drawn-out /,lɒŋ'drɔːnɔːt/ *adj* lasting (too) long; PROLONGED: *The official enquiry was a long-drawn-out affair.*

long-gev-i-ty /lɒŋ'geɪvɪti||lɒŋ-, lɒŋ-/ *n* [U] **1** *fml* long life **2** *tech* length of life: *the longevity of the rabbit*

long face /,lɒŋ feɪs/ *n* an unhappy or complaining expression on the face: *She made/pulled a long face when I told her she would have to take the exam again.*

Long-fel-low /'lɒŋfeləʊ||'lɒŋ-/ **Hen-ry Wads-worth** /'henri 'wɒdzwəθ||-'wɔːdzwəθ/ (1807–82) an American

poet who told the stories of American LEGENDS in long poems such as *The Song of Hiawatha*, *Paul Revere's Ride*, and *The Courtship of Miles Standish* —see also **HIAWATHA**

Long-ford /'lɒŋfəd||'lɒŋfərd/ *written abbrev. Long.* a COUNTY in Northern Ireland

Longford, Frank (1905–) an English politician, known as **Lord Longford**, who is a leading Catholic and worker for prison reform

long-haired /,lɒŋ'heɪd||,lɒŋ'heəd/ *adj* **1** having long hair: *a long-haired dog* **2** [A] *old-fash derog* too concerned with art, literature, ideas, or spiritual matters: *long-haired intellectuals*

long-hand /'lɒŋhænd||'lɒŋ-/ *n* [U] ordinary writing by hand, not in any shortened or machine-produced form: *She wrote it out in longhand before typing it.* —compare **SHORTHAND**

long-haul /'lɒŋhɔːl/ *adj* [A] (esp. of an aircraft flight) covering a long distance round the world: *Fog has delayed the departure of some long-haul flights.* | *Long-haul holidays are becoming more popular.* —compare **SHORT-HAUL**

long haul /,lɒŋhɔːl/ *n* [S] a long and usu. difficult journey, job, or activity

long-horn /'lɒŋhɔːn||'lɒŋhɔːrn/ also **longhorn** *cattle*, **Texas longhorn**— *n* AmE a kind of cow, kept for their meat and now nearly EXTINCT, which has long horns and which was very popular in the West in the 1800s: *driving a herd of longhorns to Montana*

long-house /'lɒŋhaʊs||'lɒŋ-/ *n* -houses /,haʊzɪz/ a kind of house used by some NATIVE AMERICAN tribes which was around one hundred feet long and was used by everyone in the tribe

long-ing¹ /'lɒŋɪŋ||'lɒŋɪŋ/ *n* [C;U (for)] a strong feeling of wanting something; strong wish; YEARNING: *a longing for fame* | *secret longings* | *The little boy looked with longing at the toys in the shop window.* —see also **LONG**⁴

longing² *adj* [A] showing a strong wish: *a longing look* — *~ly adv*: *She was looking longingly at him.*

long-ish /'lɒŋɪʃ||'lɒŋɪʃ/ *adj infml* quite long

Long Is-land /,lɒŋ'ɪslənd/ an island that contains the New York City BOROUGHs of Queens and Brooklyn. Further E it has many other towns and cities, and some seaside places that are popular in summer. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

long-gi-tude /'lɒŋdʒɪtjuːd||'lɒndʒɪtjuːd/ *n* [C;U] the position on the Earth east or west of a MERIDIAN usu. measured, in degrees, from Greenwich in England: *The town is at longitude 21° east.* —compare **LATITUDE** and see picture at **GLOBE**

long-gi-tu-di-nal /,lɒŋdʒɪ'tjuːdnəl||,lɒndʒɪ'tuː-/ *adj fml or tech* **1** of or measured according to longitude **2** *a* in length; going from end to end, not across *b* in time: *a longitudinal study of educational development over five years* — *~ly adv*

long johns /'lɒŋ dʒɒnz/ *n* [P] *old-fash infml* men's underclothes with long legs, esp. worn for warmth

Long John Sil-ver /,lɒŋ dʒɒn 'sɪlvə/ a famous character from a children's adventure story called *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. Long John Silver is a cruel and frightening PIRATE who has part of one leg missing and a PARROT on his shoulder. —see also **PIRATE**

long jump /'lɒŋ dʒʌmp/ also **broad jump** AmE— *n* [the] a sport in which someone jumps from a point and tries to land as far away as possible —see colour picture on page 883 — *~er n*

long-lasting /,lɒŋ'læstɪŋ/ *adj* **longer-lasting** lasting a long time: *Try the new long-lasting pack.*

Long-leat /'lɒŋli:t||'lɒŋ-/ a historic house in Wiltshire which is owned by the Marquess of Bath. It is known for its SAFARI PARK (=park

Long John Silver



which one can drive through where wild animals can be seen).

long-life /'lɒŋˌlaɪf/ *adj* [A] *esp. BrE* (of milk, fruit juice, etc.) treated so that it can be kept for a long time without going bad

long-lived /ˌlɒŋˈlɪvd/ *adj* living or lasting a long time: *a long-lived family* | *a long-lived friendship* — compare **SHORT-LIVED**

long-lost /'lɒŋˌlɒst/ *adj* [A] that has been lost or unknown for a long time: *They greeted each other like long-lost brothers.*

Long March /ˌlɒŋˈmɑːtʃ/ [the] the dangerous journey across China taken by an army of Communist Chinese soldiers and officials in 1934–35. Only one third of the people were alive at the end — see also **MAO TSE-TUNG**

long-play-ing rec-ord /ˌlɒŋˈpleɪŋ rɪkˈɔːd/ also **long-player** *n* an LP

long-range /ˌlɒŋˈrɛɪʒ/ *adj* [A] about or covering a long distance or time: *long-range missiles* | *long-range weather forecasts predicting rain next month*

long-ship /ˌlɒŋˈʃɪp/ *n* a long narrow open warship once used by the Vikings, with oars and a small square sail — compare **LONGBOAT** and see picture at **VIKING**

long-shore-man /ˌlɒŋˈʃɔːmən/ *n* — **men** /mən/ *esp. AmE* for **DOCKER**

long shot /'lɒŋˌʃɒt/ *n* an attempt which is unlikely to succeed, but which one risks making — see also **not by a long shot** (**LONG**¹)

long-sight-ed /ˌlɒŋˈsaɪtɪd/ *esp. BrE* || **farsighted** *esp. AmE* — *adj* able to see objects or read things clearly only when they are far from the eyes — opposite **shortsighted**

long-stand-ing /ˌlɒŋˈstændɪŋ/ *adj* having existed in the same form for a long time: *a long-standing trade agreement between the countries* | *the long-standing rivalry between these two football clubs*

long-suf-fer-ing /ˌlɒŋˈsʌfəɪɪŋ/ *adj* patient in spite of continued difficulty, *esp.* bad or annoying treatment from another person: *Although he keeps leaving her, his longsuffering girlfriend always takes him back.*

long suit /ˌlɒŋˈsuɪt/ *n* [S] *rare infml* someone's best quality or the thing they do best: *Being tactful is not exactly his long suit.* (=he has little **TACT**)

long-term, **long term** /ˌlɒŋˈtɜːm/ *adj*, *n* [the] (concerning) a long period of time: (for or in) the distant future: *a long-term plan* | *No one knows what the long-term effects of the new drugs will be.* | *In the long term we aim to train hundreds of medical workers.* | *training programmes for the long-term unemployed* — opposite **short-term**

long-time /'lɒŋˌtaɪm/ *adj* [A] long-standing: *a long-time love affair*

long ton /ˌlɒŋˈtɒn/ *n* *tech* (a unit of weight equal to) 2240 pounds

long-gueur /ˌlɒŋˈɡɜːr/ *n* [usu. *pl.*] *lit* a very dull part or period

long va-ca-tion /ˌlɒŋˈvɑːʃən/ also **long vac** /ˌlɒŋˈvæk/ *infml* — *n* *BrE* the period of three months in the summer when university students have holidays

long wave /ˌlɒŋˈweɪv/ *written abbrev. LW* *n* [U] radio broadcasting or receiving on waves of 1000 metres or more in length — compare **MEDIUM WAVE**, **SHORT WAVE**

long-ways /ˌlɒŋˈweɪz/ *esp. BrE* || *usu.* **longwise** *AmE* — *adv* along the length; **LENGTHWAYS**

long-wear-ing /ˌlɒŋˈweərɪŋ/ *adj* *AmE* for **HARDWEARING**

long week-end /ˌlɒŋˈwiːkˌend/ *n* a short holiday or period of not working which includes the **WEEKEND** but lasts for longer than two days, *usu.* including Friday afternoon and Monday: *We spent a long weekend in our country cottage.*

long-wind-ed /ˌlɒŋˈwɪndɪd/ *adj* (of a person, speech, piece of writing, etc.) going on too long and using too many words: *That was the most longwinded speech I've ever had to sit through!* — *~ly* *adv* — *~ness* *n* [U]

long-wise /ˌlɒŋˈwaɪz/ *adv* *esp. AmE* **LONGWAYS**

Lons-dale Belt /ˌlɒnzdeɪlˈbelt/ [the] the most important prize in British professional **BOXING**, a richly decorated belt which is given to a **CHAMPION** and is kept by

him if he wins it three times one after another

loo /luː/ *n* **loos** *BrE infml* for **TOILET** — see **TOILET (USAGE)**

Loo-by Loo /ˌluːbiˈluː/ a **PUPPET** in the shape of a young girl with long, fair hair, who appeared with **Andy Pandy** in a British children's television **SERIES** of the 1950s

loo-fah, **loofa** /ˌluːfə/ *n* the long thin dried inner part of the fruit of a tropical plant, used as a **SPONGE** in washing the body

look¹ /lʊk/ *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*, *esp.* *at*] to turn the eyes so as to see something or see in the stated direction: *What are you looking at?* | *He looked angrily at the mess.* | *Look over there — I think something is burning.* | *to look round the corner/over the wall/out of the window* | *They looked away from the unpleasant sight.* | *Look at him jumping!* | (*esp. AmE*) *Look at him jump!* **2** [I] to use the eyes in order to find something; search: *You could see it if you'd only look.* | *We looked everywhere but we couldn't find it.* | *Try looking under the bed.* — see also **LOOK FOR** **3** [L] to seem by expression or appearance: *You look tired/well/happy.* | *The two children look alike.* | *She looks just like her sister.* | *Your room looks a mess.* | *"How does this hat look on me?" "It looks good."* | *The plan looks good on paper, but will it work?* [+*to-v*] *Judging by her letter, she looks to be the best person for the job.* | *It looks like/looks as if it's going to rain.* (=It seems likely that it will rain.)

4 [T+*wh-*; *usu.* *imperative*] to look at; notice: *Look how big it is!* | *Look (=be careful) where you're putting your feet!* **5** [I+*adv/prep*] (*esp.* of a building) to face in the stated direction: *Our house looks east/looks out on the river.* | *The offices look onto a park.* **6** [T] to have an appearance that matches: *He's beginning to look his age.* | *You have to look your best if you want the job.* **7** [T+*to-v*; *obj*] *infml* to plan or expect to do something: *If you're looking to buy a new car, I suggest you borrow some money from the bank.* **8** [T] to express with the eyes: *She said nothing but looked all interest.* **9** *here's looking at you,* **kid** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from the film *Casablanca*. The phrase was originally said by **Humphrey Bogart**. **10** **Look alive/lively!** *infml* Act fast! Work fast!

11 **look before you leap** think about possible dangers or difficulties before you do something **12** **look daggers at** to look at (someone) extremely angrily **13** **look down one's nose at** *often derog* to regard (someone or something) as unimportant or having a low social position — see also **LOOK DOWN ON** **14** **look good** give a favourable effect: *She looks good in that dress.* **15** **look on the 'bright side (of things)** to be cheerful and hopeful in spite of difficulties **16** **look sharp** *infml, esp. BrE* a to hurry up: *You'll have to look sharp if you want to get there on time.* b to watch out; be careful **17** **look small** (of a person) to (be made to) appear unimportant or silly **18** **look someone in the eye/face** to look directly and without fear at someone who is near: *Can you look me in the eye and say you didn't steal it?* **19** **look someone up and down** to look at someone as if examining them carefully, *esp.* seeming ready to make a severe judgment: *She looked me up and down, and then said, "Well, I suppose you look tidy enough."* **20** **look well** *rather fml* look good: *The hat looks well on you.*

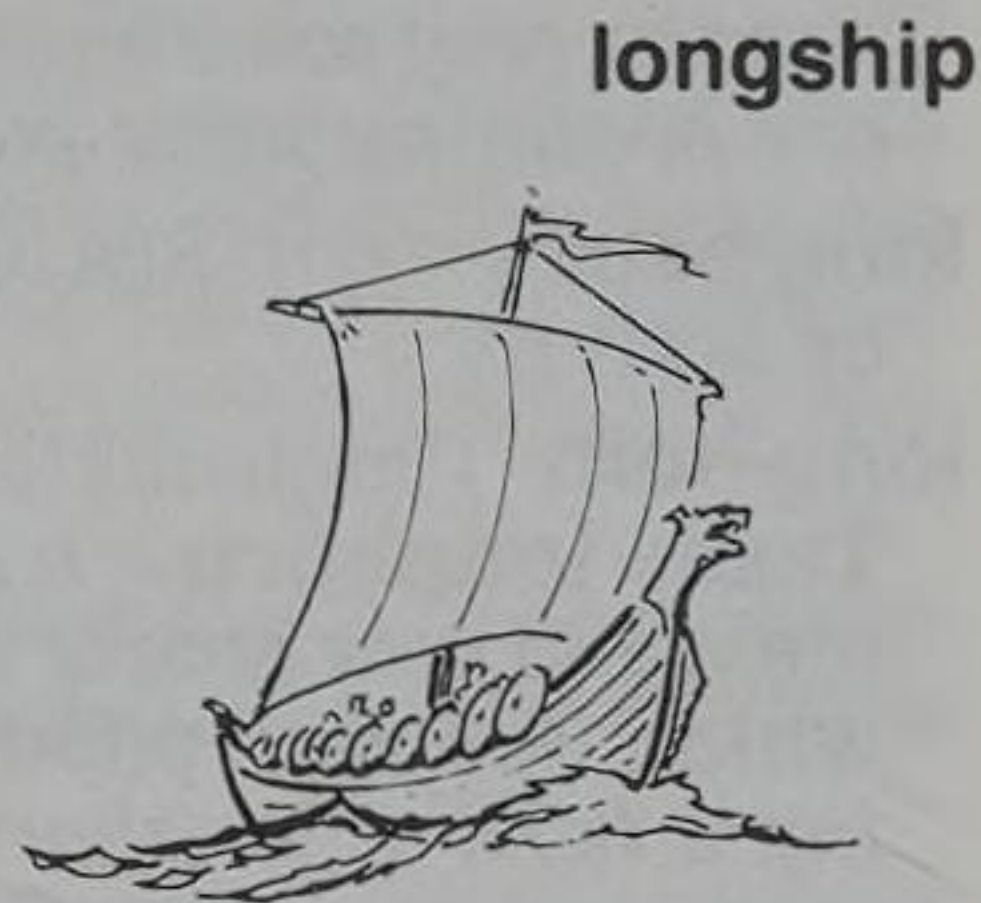
look after sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to take care of; be responsible for: *Who will look after the baby while they're out?* | *I can look after myself.* (=be independent and not let other people take advantage of me) | *Are you being well looked after?* | *Look after yourself while you're away.* (=take good care of yourself)

look ahead *phr v* [I] to plan for the future

look around/round *phr v* [I (for)] to search: *looking around for a nice place to eat/for a new job*

look at sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** [+*obj+adv/prep*] to regard; judge: *She looks at work in a different way now she's in charge.* **2** to examine (something) to see if it is good or correct, if action needs to be taken, etc.: *We're looking at a new idea for marketing our shampoos.* | *You ought to have that bad tooth looked at.* | *He looked carefully at the figures.* — see **SEE (USAGE)** **3** [*usu.* *in negatives*] to consider: *I wouldn't look at such a small offer!* **4** [*usu.* *imperative*] to notice or remember and learn from: *Look at Mrs Jones: drink killed her!* **5** **not much to look at** *infml* not attractive in appearance: *He's not much to look at, but he has a kind heart.*

look back *phr v* [I (to, on)] **1** to remember: *I look back on those days as the happiest time of my life.* **2** **never look back** to continue to succeed: *After he won the first game he never looked back.* (=he kept on winning)



look down on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to have or show a low opinion of (esp. someone one considers socially INFERIOR or unimportant); DESPISE —opposite **look up to**

look for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to try to find: *looking for a lost book/a new job* 2 *infml* to behave in a way that is likely to cause (something bad): *You're looking for trouble if you say things like that to me!* 3 *esp. old use* wish to have: *We look for improvement in your work, Smith.* —see also UNLOOKED-FOR

look forward to *phr v* [T] to expect with pleasure: *I'm really looking forward to your party.* [+*v-ing*] *I'm looking forward to going to your party.* | (in a business letter) *I look forward to receiving your reply as soon as possible.* —see EXPECT (USAGE)

look in *phr v* [I (on)] *infml* to make a short visit: *to look in on the party* —see also LOOK-IN

look into sthg. *phr v* [T] to examine the meaning or causes of; INVESTIGATE: *The police have received the complaint, and they're looking into it.* | *a report looking into the causes of unemployment*

look on *phr v* 1 [I] to watch while others take part —see also LOOKER-ON, ONLOOKER 2 [T+obj+adv/prep] (**look on** sbdy./sthg.) also **look upon**— to consider; regard: *I look on him as a friend.* | *Most people look on the government's promises with complete disbelief.*

look out *phr v* 1 [I *usu. imperative*] to take care: *Look out! There's a car coming!* 2 [I (for)] to keep watching (in order to see): *Look out for your aunt at the station.* —see also LOOKOUT 3 [T] (**look** sthg. ↔ **out**) *esp. BrE* to search for and choose from one's possessions: *to look out a dress for a party* 4 **look out for number one** *usu. derog* to make sure that one's own needs and interests are treated as most important

look sthg./sbdy. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T] to examine, esp. quickly: *I've looked over the plans, but I haven't studied them in detail.* —see also OVERLOOK

look round *phr v BrE* || **look around** *AmE*— 1 [I;T] (=look round sthg.) to look at and examine (a place), esp. while walking: *I don't want to buy anything; I'm just looking round.* | *Do we have to pay to look round the castle?* | *Let's look round the shops.* 2 [I (for)] to LOOK around

look through sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] 1 to examine, esp. for points to be noted: *Look through this proposal for me, and tell me what you think of it.* 2 to look at (someone) without seeming to notice them, on purpose or because of deep thought: *I tried to tell him about it, but he just looked (straight) through me.*

look to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 [(for)] to depend on for help, advice, etc.: *We look to you for support.* [+obj+to-v] *They're looking to the new manager to bring the company back to profitability.* 2 *fml* to pay attention to, esp. in order to improve: *We must each look to our own work.* 3 **look to one's laurels** to guard against competition; make sure one keeps one's good position

look up *phr v* 1 [I] *infml* (of a situation, business, etc.) to get better, esp. after being bad; improve: *Trade should look up later in the year.* | *Things are looking up!* 2 [T] (**look** sthg. ↔ **up**) to find (information) in a book: *Look up the word in the dictionary.* | *I'll look up the times of the trains.* 3 [T] (**look** sbdy. ↔ **up**) to find and visit (someone) when in the same area: *I must look up an old friend who lives nearby.*

look up to sbdy. *phr v* [T] to respect; admire —opposite **look down on**

look² *n* 1 [C (at) *usu. sing.*] an act of looking: *Have a look at that!* (=Look at that!) | *I took one look at the coat and decided I would have to buy it.* | *The country must have a long hard look at the tragedy of unemployment.* 2 [C] a (short) period of giving attention with the eyes; GLANCE: *She gave me an angry look.* 3 [C *usu. sing.*] an expression in the eyes or on the face: *I knew she didn't like it by the look on her face.* 4 [S] an appearance: *He has the look of a winner.* | *The deserted village had a sad look.* | *a new look in skirts* (=a new fashion in their appearance) | *I don't like the look of that hole in the roof.* (=its appearance suggests trouble) 5 **by the look(s) of it, him, etc.** probably; judging from the way it, he, etc., appears or seems: *By the looks of it we shan't have much rain this month.* —see also LOOKS

look³ *interj* also **look here**— (an expression used for drawing attention before saying something, esp. when one is angry or impatient): *Look, I don't mind you borrowing*

my car, but you ought to ask me first. | *Now look here, you can't say things like that to me!*

look-a-like /'lʊkə'liː/ *n infml* someone or something that looks very similar to someone or something else; a DOUBLE: *Let's hire that Humphrey Bogart look-alike for the TV commercial.* —compare CLONE

Look Back in Anger /'lʊk bæk ɪn ˈæŋɡər/ a play by the English writer John Osborne, which gave its name to the Angry Young Men, a group of British writers of plays in the 1950s —see also ANGRY YOUNG MAN

look-er /'lʊkər/ also **good looker**— *n infml* a person, usu. a woman, with an attractive appearance: *She's a real looker.* —see also LOOKS

looker-on /'lʊkər ɒn/ *n* **lookers-on** an ONLOOKER

look-in /'lʊk ɪn/ *n* [S] *infml* 1 a chance to take part or succeed: *Their team was so much better than ours that we didn't even get a look-in.* (=we were completely beaten) 2 a short visit —see also LOOK in

look-ing glass /'lʊk ɪŋ ɡlɑːs/ also **glass**— *n old-fash* a mirror

look-out /'lʊk-aʊt/ *n* 1 [S] the act of keeping watch: *keeping a lookout for the enemy* 2 [C] a person who keeps watch: *The general posted a lookout on top of the hill.* 3 [C] a place to watch from 4 [S (for)] *infml* a likely future course of events; OUTLOOK: *It's a bad lookout for the company if interest rates don't come down.* 5 **one's own lookout** *BrE infml* an unpleasant situation one must take care of for oneself, without others' help: *If the teacher finds out you've been cheating, it's your own lookout.* 6 **on the lookout for** searching for: *We're on the lookout for new computer programmers.* —see also LOOK out

looks /lʊks/ *n* [P] a person's appearance, esp. when attractive: *She kept her looks even in old age.* —see also LOOKER

look-see /'lʊk siː/ *n AmE infml* LOOK² (1): *Let's just have a look-see at the back of your throat; maybe your tonsils are swollen.*

loom¹ /luːm/ *n* a frame or machine on which thread is woven into cloth

loom² *v* 1 [I (UP)] to come into sight without a clear form, esp. so as to seem very large and threatening, causing fear: *A figure loomed (up) out of the mist.* | (fig.) *The threat of war loomed (over the country).* 2 **loom large** to seem great and cause worry or other strong feeling: *Fear of failure loomed large in his mind.* | *The coming examination looms larger with every passing day.*

loon /luːn/ *n esp. lit* a foolish or mad person

loon-y /'luːni/ *n, adj sl* (a person who is) mad or foolish; LUNATIC

loony bin /'luːni bɪn/ *n sl, often humor for* MENTAL HOSPITAL; considered offensive by many people

loony left /'luːni lɛft/ [the] the name given in the 1980s to the extreme left of the British Labour party whose activities were thought to be damaging to the party —**loony leftie, lefty** *n*: *the loony lefties on the fringe of the party*

loop¹ /luːp/ *n* 1 the shape made by a piece of string, wire, rope, etc., when curved back on itself to produce a closed or slightly open curve: *To make a knot in a piece of rope, you first make a loop and then pass one end of the rope through it.* 2 something with this shape, esp. one used as a handle or fastening: *Carry the parcel by this loop of string.* 3 a type of IUD 4 also **loop line** /'lʊk laɪn/— a railway line that leaves the main track and then joins it again further on 5 a circle made by an aircraft while flying along, up, back, down, and then along again 6 a set of commands in a computer PROGRAM that are to be performed repeatedly

loop² *v* 1 [I;T] to make a loop or make into a loop 2 [T+obj+adv/prep] to fasten by using or forming a loop: *Loop the rope round the gate.* | *Loop that end of the rope through this and make a knot with it.* 3 [I;T] (of an aircraft) to fly a LOOP¹ (5) (often in the phrase **loop the loop**)

Loop [the] the central business area of Chicago. The name comes from an ELEVATED RAILWAY that forms a large circle around several blocks where different railways meet.

loop-hole /'luːphəʊl/ *n* a way of escaping or avoiding something, esp. one provided by a rule or agreement written without enough care: *a loophole in the tax laws*

loose¹ /luːs/ *adj* 1 not firmly or tightly fixed; movable when it should be firm: *a loose tooth* | *a loose button* | *This pole is coming/working loose; it'll soon fall over.* | *The*

radio wasn't working because of a loose connection in the wires. | (fig.) loose-limbed and graceful **2** [F] not fastened, tied up, shut up, etc.; free from control: *The animals broke loose and ran away.* | *I turned/let the other animals loose.* (=I freed them) **3** not tied or packed together, e.g. with string or in a box; not packaged (PACKAGE): *I bought these sweets loose, not in a box.* **4** (of clothes) not fitting tightly **5** made of parts that are not tight together; not COMPACT: *a loose weave/soil* **6** not exact or controlled: *a loose translation* | *loose accounting practices that have cost the firm a lot of money over the years* **7** careless or irresponsible, esp. in what one says: *Never tell him a secret; he's got a loose tongue.* (=he will tell it to everyone else) | *loose talk* **8** old-fash derog having low sexual morals: *a loose woman* | *loose living* **9** (of the bowels) allowing waste matter to flow more than is natural **10** cut loose **a** to break away from a group or situation **b** AmE infml to stop carefully controlling one's actions: *Soon the music took hold of him and he cut loose, dancing uninhibitedly.* **11** keep/stay loose AmE infml to keep or stay in a calm unworried state **12** let someone loose **on** to allow someone to deal with in their own way: *Don't let him loose on the garden; he'll pull up all the flowers.* — ~ly adv: *Loosely translated, the word means "important".* — ~ness n [U]

loose² v [T] fml or lit **1** to untie **2** to fire (an ARROW, a shot from a gun, etc.) **3** to free from control: *The wine loosed his tongue.* — compare LOOSEN

loose³ adv in a loose manner; loosely — see also **fast and loose** (FAST²)

loose⁴ n **on the loose** free, esp. having escaped from prison: *a dangerous criminal on the loose*

loose change /, ˌ ɪ ˌ n [U] coins in one's pocket, PURSE, etc.

loose covers /, ˌ ɪ ˌ n [P] covers, made of cloth, used to protect and decorate pieces of furniture, esp. ARMCHAIRS and SOFAS

loose end /, ˌ ɪ ˌ n [usu. pl.] **1** a part not properly completed: *The committee's report was very good, but there are still just a few loose ends (to be tied up).* **2** at a loose end BrE || at loose ends AmE — having nothing to do: *Can I come over? I'm at a loose end this morning.*

loose-leaf /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / adj [A] (of a book) able to have pages put in and taken out: *a loose-leaf binder* (=a RING BINDER)

loosen /'luːsən/ v [I;T] **1** to make or become less firm, fixed, tight, etc.: *He loosened his grip on the handle.* | *I loosened my tie but I didn't take it off.* | *The government's control over the newspapers has loosened in recent years.* **2** to make or become less controlled or more free in movement: *a medicine that loosens the bowels* | *A few drinks loosened his tongue.* (=made him talk more, and probably carelessly) — compare LOOSE²

loosen up phr v **1** [I;T (=loosen sthg. ↔ up)] to (cause to) become ready for action by exercising the muscles: *The runners are just loosening up before the race.* | *exercises to loosen up the muscles* **2** [I] to become more free and relaxed (RELAX): *After a few drinks we loosened up and began to enjoy ourselves.*

loot¹ /lu:t/ n [U] **1** goods, esp. valuable objects, taken away illegally, esp. by soldiers after defeating an enemy or by thieves

► CULTURAL NOTE In CARTOONS, thieves are often seen carrying a large bag with the word "loot" written on it — compare SWAG (1) ◀

2 AmE sl humor gifts, money, etc. considered as a group: *The kids rushed downstairs to gape at their Christmas loot.* | *She came home from shopping with piles of loot.*

loot² v [I;T] to steal, esp. in large quantities, and often causing widespread damage: *Anyone found looting (the bombed houses and shops) will be shot.* | *There was an outbreak of looting.* — compare PLUNDER² — ~er n

lop /lɒp/||lɑ:p/ v -pp- [T (AWAY, OFF)] to cut (branches) off a tree: *to lop the biggest branches off (a tree)* | (fig.) *They've lopped a few pounds off the price.*

lope /ləʊp/ v [I+adv/prep] (esp. of an animal) to move easily and quite fast with springing steps: *The noise alarmed the giraffe, and it loped off.* — **lope** n [S]: *going off at a lope*

lop-eared /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / adj (of an animal) having ears that hang down loosely: *a lop-eared rabbit/spaniel*

lop-sid-ed /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / adj having one side heavier or lower than the other; not properly balanced: *a lop-sided way of*

walking | (fig.) *The papers have been giving a rather lop-sided account of the strike.*

loquacious /ləʊ'kwɛɪʃəs/ adj fml, often derog liking to talk a lot — ~ly adv — **-city** /-ˈkwæʃɪti/ n [U]

loquat /'ləʊkwɒt||-kwɑ:t/ n the small yellowish fruit of a tree that grows mostly in China and Japan

Lorca see GARCÍA LORCA

lord¹ /lɔ:d||lɔ:rd/ n **1** a man of noble rank, esp. in Britain: *The feudal lords forced the king to sign the treaty.* | *Dukes, earls, and barons are all lords.* | *Lord Hailsham addressed the meeting.* | *Will you step this way, my lord?* — compare LADY; see also HOUSE OF LORDS **2** a powerful man in the stated industry: *media lords* — compare BARON (2) **3** one's lord and master old use or humor a man who must be obeyed: *Our lords and masters have changed the schedule yet again!*

lord² v **lord it (over someone)** infml, usu. derog to behave (towards someone) as if one had the power to control them, e.g. by giving orders impolitely

Lord¹ n **1** [the] God: *Praise the Lord!* | (the) Lord God — see also OUR LORD **2** certain official people, originally only men: *the first woman to become Lord Mayor of London* **3** Lord (only) knows infml no one knows: *Lord knows where I left my bag!* — see also LORDS

Lord² interj (an expression of surprise, fear, worry, etc., in such phrases as **Oh Lord!**, **Good Lord!**): *Good Lord, how amazing!* (=showing surprise) | *Oh Lord, I forgot it!* (=showing annoyance and worry)

Lord Ad-vo-cate /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / [the] the head of the Scottish legal system, which is different to the English legal system

Lord Cham-ber-lain /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / [the] the King or Queen of England's chief officer responsible for the ceremonial parts of royal activities

Lord Chan-cel-lor /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / [the] **Lords Chancellor** a political official who is the head of the legal system in England and Wales, the Speaker of the House of Lords and also usu. a member of the Cabinet. The responsibilities of the Lord Chancellor include appointing new judges and deciding if laws need to be changed. — see also SPEAKER

Lord Chief Jus-tice /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / [the] **Lords Chief Justice** a judge who is second in importance after the Lord Chancellor

Lord Haw Haw see Lord HAW HAW

Lord is my Shep-herd /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ /, **The** the title and first words of a PSALM and HYMN, also known as the 23rd Psalm. It is the best-known of all the Psalms.

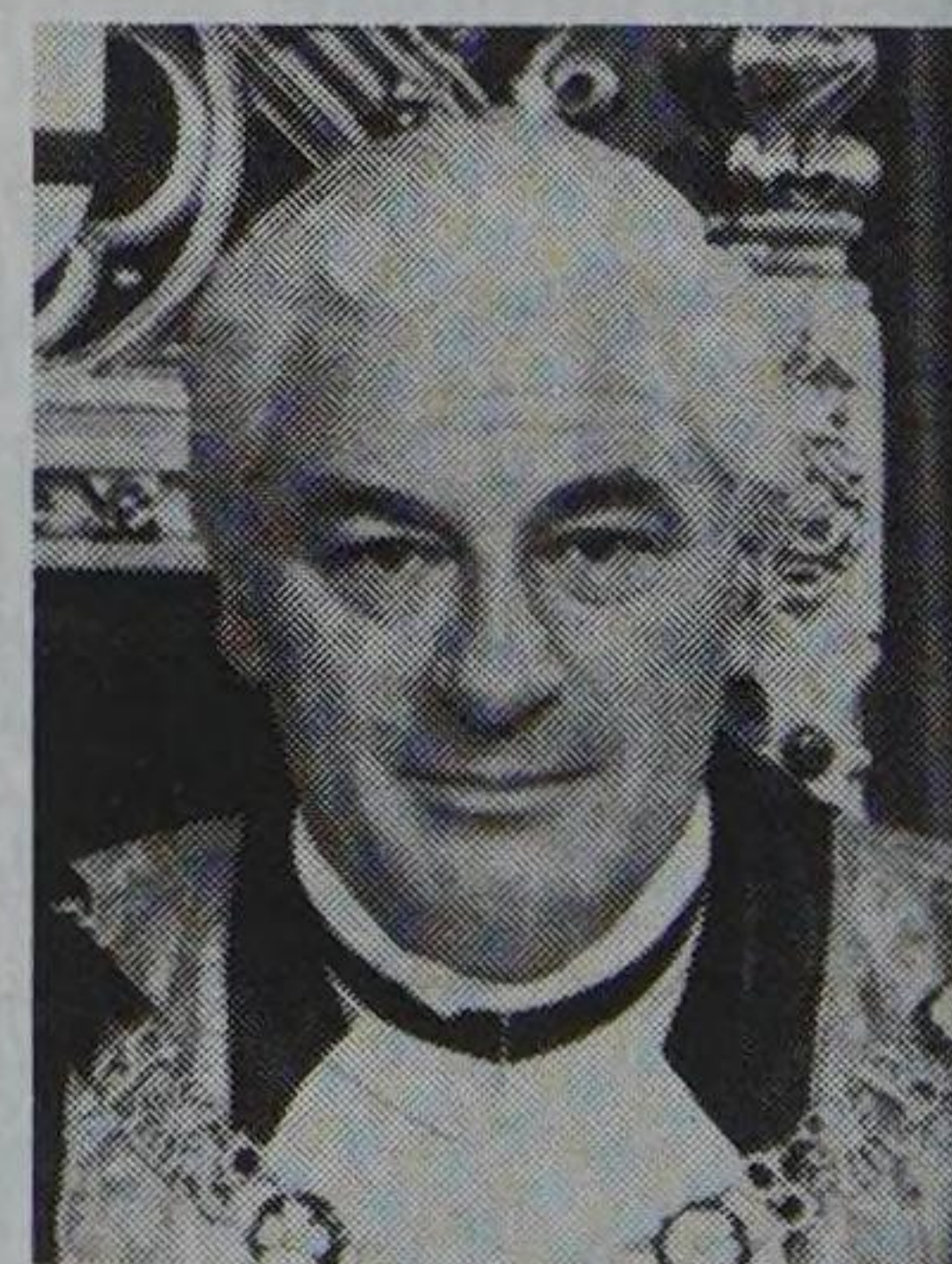
Lord Jim /, lɔ:d 'dʒɪm||, lɔ:rd-/ a NOVEL by Joseph Conrad (1900) about a ship's officer who leaves his ship, thinking that it is about to sink, and spends the rest of his life trying to make up for this dishonourable action

Lord Lieu-ten-ant /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / [the] **Lords Lieutenant** an official who represents the King or Queen of England in a British COUNTY and performs ceremonial duties

lord-ly /'lɔ:dlɪ||-ɔ:r-/ adj **1** often derog behaving like a lord, esp. in giving orders: *a lordly manner* **2** apprec, esp. lit suitable for a lord; grand: *a lordly feast* — **liness** n [U]

Lord Mayor /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / [the] the official title of the person elected each year by a council to be head of a city, the most important example being the Lord Mayor of London

Lord Mayor



Lord Mayor's Ban-quet /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / [the] a BANQUET (=a formal dinner) held in the Guildhall, London every year after the new Lord Mayor of London has been elected. Many important people are invited to this banquet, including the Prime Minister, who makes a speech to mark the occasion.

Lord Mayor's Show /, ˌ ɪ ˌ ɔ ˌ / [the] a street PARADE in which the new Lord Mayor of London travels in a golden carriage through the streets of London

Lord of the Flies /lɔː · · · ˈlɪ-/ the title of a NOVEL by William Golding about a group of boys who are stuck on a small island and behave in a cruel way towards one another

Lord of the Rings /lɔː · · · ˈlɪ-/ **The** a book by J R R Tolkien, following on from *The Hobbit* and originally intended as a children's story. It has many strange, magical characters in it, e.g. HOBBITS and the magician Gandalf.

Lord Privy Seal /lɔː · · · ˈlɪ-/ [*the*] **Lords Privy Seal** an important member of the British Cabinet who is not responsible for a particular government department

lord pro-tect-or /lɔː · · · ˈlɪ-/ *n* [*often caps.*] the title taken by both Oliver and Richard Cromwell after the English Civil War as leaders of the country

Lords /lɔːdz/ || lɔːrdz/ *n* **1** [*the*+P] the members of the House of Lords as a group **2** [*the*+sing./pl.v] the House of Lords —compare HOUSE OF COMMONS

Lord's *n* the most important cricket ground in Britain. It is in London and is the HEADQUARTERS of the MCC

Lord's Day /lɔː · ˈdeɪ/ [*the*] Sunday; the Christian SABBATH

Lord's Day Ob-ser-vance So-ci-e-ty /lɔː · · · ˈlɪ · · · ˈdeɪ/ [*the*] a British Christian society whose aim is to keep Sunday as a religious day. They object to activities involving buying and selling or sport on Sundays.

lord-ship /lɔːdʃɪp/ || ˌlɔːr-/ *n* **1** (*often cap.*) (used as a title for addressing certain noblemen or, in Britain, a BISHOP or high-ranking judge): *Good morning, your Lordship.* | *Their Lordships will give a decision tomorrow.* —compare LADYSHIP **2** [U (*over*)] the power or rule of a lord

Lord's Prayer /lɔː · ˈpreɪ/ also **Our Father**— *n* [*the*] one of the most important prayers in the Christian church, taken from the Bible. Many phrases from it are very well known and often used: *Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Lords Spir-i-tu-al /lɔː · ˈspɪrɪ · · · ˈtʃuəl/ *n* [*the* +P] the set of BISHOPS (=high-ranking priests) in the Church of England who are members of the House of Lords —compare LORDS TEMPORAL

Lord's Sup-per /lɔː · ˈsʌpər/ [*the*] COMMUNION

Lords Tem-po-ral /lɔː · ˈtɛmpərəl/ *n* [*the* +P] the members of the House of Lords who are not Lords Spiritual

lore /lɔː/ *n* [U] knowledge or old beliefs, not written down, about a particular subject: *old sea lore* —see also FOLKLORE

Lo-ren /lɔːrən, ləˈren/ || lɔːrən/, **So-phi-a** /səˈfɪə/ (1934–) a beautiful Italian actress who is an international film star and has won two Academy Awards. She was most popular in the 1950s and 1960s.

lor-gnette /lɔːˈnjet/ || ˌlɔːr-/ *n* a pair of glasses (of a type rarely used now) which are held in front of the eyes by a long handle

lorn /lɔːn/ || lɔːrn/ *adj* poet sad and lonely; FORLORN —see also LOVELORN

Lor-na Doone /lɔːnə ˈduːn/ || lɔːr-/ a NOVEL by R D Blackmore (1869), set on Exmoor in Devon

lor-ry /lɔːri/ || lɔːri, ˈlɔːri/ *n* **BrE** a large motor vehicle for carrying heavy goods; TRUCK —see DRIVE (USAGE), STEER (USAGE), TRANSPORT (USAGE), and see picture at TRUCK **2** *it fell off the back of a lorry infml* it is stolen: *Where did you get that radio? Don't tell me, it fell off the back of a lorry!*

lorry driv-er /lɔː · ˈdraɪvər/ *n* a person whose job is to drive a lorry. Most lorry drivers are men.

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The STEREOTYPE of a lorry driver is a big, strong, sometimes rather fat man who drinks large MUGS of tea and eats large meals of fried (FRY) food in TRANSPORT CAFES. ◀

lorry park /lɔː · ˈpɑːk/ *n* **BrE** an open place where lorries can be parked

Los Al-a-mos /lɔːs ˈæləməs/ || lɔːs ˈæləməs/ a town in New Mexico, USA, which contains the LABORATORY in which the first ATOM BOMB and HYDROGEN BOMB were developed —see also MANHATTAN PROJECT

Los An-ge-les /lɔːs ˈændʒəlɪz/ || lɔːs ˈændʒələs, -lɪz/ also **LA infml**— the second largest city in the USA, which is in California on the Pacific coast —see colour maps on pages 1374-5

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Los Angeles is famous for being the centre of the American film industry (in **Hollywood**) and for having lots of rich and beautiful people. Many people come to live in Los Angeles because of the good weather, but people who do not like Los Angeles think that only CRAZY or strange people live there and sometimes call Los Angeles La-La Land. There are many FREEWAYS in Los Angeles and it is difficult to go anywhere without using a car so Los Angeles is also a place with very bad air POLLUTION or SMOG because of the cars and industry. In 1992, there were serious race RIOTS in Los Angeles following a decision by a court to free four white policemen who had beaten a black man, Rodney King. A number of people were killed, and many buildings, esp. in the poor areas of the cities, were burned. —see also HOLLYWOOD ◀

Los Angeles Times /lɔː · ˈtɑɪmz/ [*the*] an important American newspaper sold in many parts of the US —see also extra information on page 892

lose /luːz/ *v* **lost** /lɒst/ || lɔːst/ **1** [T] to no longer have (something) as a result of carelessness or accident, esp. by putting it somewhere and then being unable to find it: *I've lost my keys — have you seen them anywhere?* | *Here are the tickets: don't lose them.* | *The company stands to lose* (=will probably lose) *thousands of pounds if the contract falls through.* —opposite **find** **2** [T] to no longer have as a result of death or destruction; stop possessing: *She lost her parents when she was very young.* (=they died) | *He lost an eye in the accident.* | *Many farm crops were lost as a result of the floods.* **3** [T+obj(i)+obj(d)] to cause the loss of; cost: *It was his nervousness in the interview that probably lost him the job.* | *The delays in production lost us several months' sales.* **4** [T] to fail to keep; not continue to have: *She used to be keen on photography, but she lost interest after a while.* | *I lost my balance and fell off the wall.* | *He was going to ask the boss for more money but he lost his nerve* (=his courage) *at the last minute.* | *She lost her temper and started shouting at them.* | *She probably won't lend you her car, but you've got nothing to lose by asking.* (=if she refuses, you won't be in a worse position than if you hadn't asked) —opposite **keep** **5** [I (*by, to*); T] to fail to win; be unsuccessful in (a game, competition, etc.): *England lost the match against Brazil.* | *They lost to Brazil by two goals.* | *to lose an argument* —opposite **win** **6** [T] to have less of: *The aircraft began to lose height.* | *He's lost a lot of weight.* | *She's losing a lot of blood; we must get her to hospital straightaway.* —opposite **gain** **7** [I; T (*on*)] to have less (money) than when one started: *We lost (a lot of money) on that job.* —opposite **make** **8** [T] to wander unintentionally away from; fail to find (one's way): *We lost our way and had to ask a policeman.* **9** [T] to (cause to) fail to hear, see, or understand: *Most of what she said was lost in the din.* | *He sped off, and became lost to view behind some trees.* | (*infml*) *I'm sorry, you've lost me: could you explain that again?* **10** [T] to fail to use; waste: *The doctor lost no time in getting the sick man to a hospital.* **11** [T (*in*)] to give all (one's) attention to something so as not to notice anything else; IMMERSE: *He lost himself in the book/in his work.* **12** [T] to confuse (oneself), esp. so as not to remember what one was going to do or say next: *I lost myself in the middle of trying to explain, so I had to start again.* **13** [I; T] (of a watch or clock) to work too slowly by (an amount of time): *This watch loses (50 minutes a day).* —opposite **gain**; see CLOCK (USAGE) **14** **lose one's heart (to)** to fall in love (with) **15** **lose one's shirt** *AmE infml* to lose everything one owns: *He lost his shirt in a bad business deal.* **16** **lose sight of** to fail to consider; forget: *In the heat of the argument we mustn't lose sight of our main objective.* —see also LOST

lose out *phr v* [I] **1** [(*on*)] to make a loss, often large (from something): *The firm lost out (on the deal).* **2** [(*to*)] to be defeated or receive less favourable treatment: *The tax cuts are good news for the rich, but the poor lose out again.* | *The small companies are losing out to the big multinationals because of fierce competition.*

los-er /lɔːzər/ *n* **1** a person who loses: *There was a silver cup for the winner, and medals for the losers.* | *A good loser is somebody who doesn't get upset if he or she loses.* **2** *derog* a person who is unsuccessful in life, esp. because

of lack of personal qualities; a failure: *I'm a born loser.*

loss /lɒs||lɔ:s/ *n* 1 [C;U] the act or an example of losing or failing to keep something: *Did you report the loss of your jewellery to the police?* | *The vehicle developed a loss of power.* | *We all expressed our condolences on his great loss.* (=the death of someone close to him) | *She's moved to another job; it's a great loss to our firm.* | *The British forces suffered heavy losses* (=many soldiers were killed) *on the first day of the battle.* 2 [C] the amount by which the cost of an article or business operation is greater than the income it produces: *a (net) loss of over £2 million* | *The company has made big losses this year.* (=has spent a lot more money than it has made) 3 **at a loss**: **a** at a price lower than the original cost **b** uncertain what to do, think, or say; confused: *I was at a loss for words when she told me the news.* —see also DEAD LOSS

loss ad-just-er /'lɒs.ədʒɪstər/ *n* a person employed by an insurance company to value losses and settle claims

loss lead-er /'lɒs.leɪdər/ *n* an article sold at a low price in order to attract people into a shop

lost /lɒst||lɔ:st/ *adj* 1 that cannot be found by the owner: *a lost dog* | *lost keys* 2 [F] unable to find the way: *I got lost in the snow.* 3 no longer possessed or existing: *one's lost youth* | *a lost art* 4 not used, obtained, or won: *a lost chance/opportunity* 5 [F] destroyed, ruined, killed, drowned, etc.: *The boat and all its men were lost at sea.* 6 [F+to] not noticing: *He was reading his book, completely lost to the world.* 7 [F+on, upon] having no influence or effect on: *Good advice is lost on him.* 8 **get lost** *sl* (used for telling people forcefully to go away): *He tried to introduce himself, but she told him to get lost.*

lost cause /'lɒs.kaʊs/ *n* something which has no chance of success: *Give up that idea — it's a lost cause.*

Lost Gen-er-a-tion /'lɒst.ɒn.ə.ɹi.ən/ [the] 1 the group of people who became adults during or just after the First World War, and are seen as being socially or emotionally disadvantaged as a result 2 the young men who were killed in the First World War, seen as people who could have been influential in art, science, etc. 3 a group of American writers who grew up during the First World War, such as Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald

lost prop-er-ty /'lɒst.prɒp.ət.i/ *n* [U] articles found in public places because people have forgotten them, which are collected and kept in a special place (**lost property office** *BrE* || **lost-and-found (office)** *AmE*) to which people who have lost something can go in the hope of getting it back

Lost Week-end /'lɒst.wi:k.ɛnd/ *n* **The** a 1945 American film in which a writer spends two days drinking a lot of alcohol and losing control of his life

lot¹ /lɒt||lɑ:t/ *n* 1 [C (of)] also **lots** *pl.* — a great quantity, number, or amount: *A lot of people/Lots of people came to the party.* | *She's got lots (and lots) of money.* | *I've got a lot (of work) to do.* | *They gave us lots to eat.* | *What a lot of food there is!* —compare PLENTY; see MANY (USAGE), MORE² (USAGE) 2 [the+sing./pl. v] the whole quantity, number, or amount: *Give me the lot.* (=all of it or all of them) | *The whole lot of you are mad!* 3 [C+sing./pl. v] a group or set of people or things of the same type; an amount of a substance or material: *Another lot of students is/are arriving soon.* | *This wine's no good but the next lot may be better.* 4 **a 'fat lot** *infml* none at all: *A fat lot you care!* (=You don't care at all.) | *We tried to make him change his mind, but a fat lot of good it did us!* 5 **a lot/(infml) lots** (esp. in comparisons) much; a great deal: *This is a lot better.* | *This is lots more interesting.* 6 **Thanks a lot!** Thank you very much!: *"I posted your letters."* *"Thanks a lot."* (used to mean the opposite) *"I forgot to bring your money."* *"Oh, thanks a lot!"*

lot² *n* 1 [C] an article or a number of articles sold together, esp. at an AUCTION sale: *Lot 49, a fine old silver cigarette case.* —see also JOB LOT 2 [C] esp. *AmE* an area of land, esp. one for a particular purpose such as for building or parking cars on: *playing on an empty lot* —see also PARKING LOT 3 [C] a film STUDIO (=a building in which films are made) and the ground surrounding it 4 [C] any of a set of objects of different sizes or with different markings used for making a choice or decision by chance: *The children drew lots* (=chose such objects one by one) *to see who would go first.* 5 [U] the use of such objects to make a choice or decision: *The winner was chosen by lot.* —see also LOTTERY 6 [S] *fml* or *lit* the quality or manner of a person's life, regarded as something that cannot be

changed or avoided; fortune; fate: *Learn to be content with your lot (in life).*

Lot's wife /'lɒts.waɪf/ (in the Bible) a woman who was turned into a PILLAR of salt because she disobeyed God's command not to look back when she and her family were running from Sodom, which God was about to destroy

loth /ləʊθ/ *adj* [F+to-v] LOATH

Lo-tha-ri-o /lə'thɑ:ri.əʊ||ləʊ'ther-/ *n* *lit* or *derog* a man whose main interest is having as many female lovers as possible without having a serious relationship with any of them: *a known Lothario*

Lo-thi-an /'ləʊði.ən/ a REGION in SE Scotland, which contains the city of Edinburgh

lo-tion /'ləʊʃən/ *n* [C;U] a liquid mixture, used on the skin or hair, e.g. to make it clean and healthy or less painful: *Put some lotion on your sunburn.* | *baby lotion* | *sun-tan lotion*

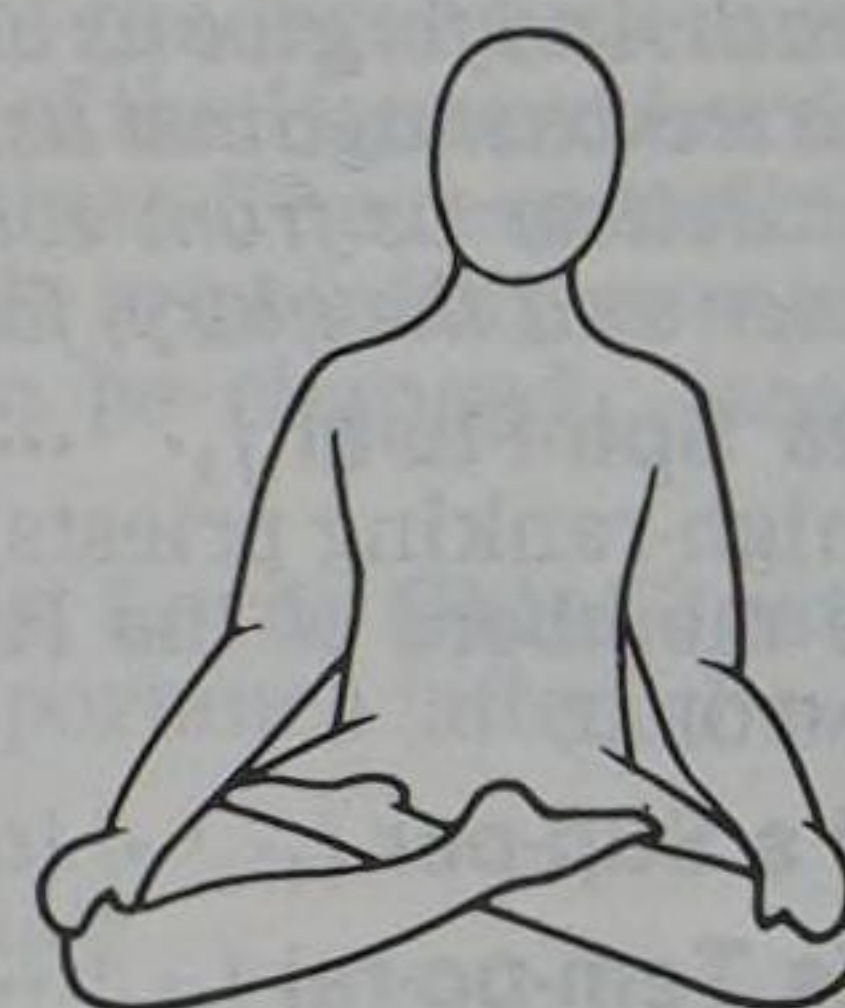
lot-te-ry /'lɒtəri||'lɑ:z-/ *n* 1 [C] a system in which many numbered tickets are sold, some of which are later chosen by chance and prizes given to those who bought them —compare DRAW² (2), RAFFLE 2 [S] something whose result or worth is uncertain or risky: *Life is a lottery.*

lo-tus /'ləʊtəs/ *n* 1 a white or pink flower that grows, esp. in Asia, on the surface of lakes 2 the shape of this flower used formally in decorative patterns, esp. in ancient Egyptian art 3 (in ancient Greek stories) a fruit which, when eaten, caused the eater to feel pleasantly dreamy, forgetful, and lazy

lotus-eat-er /'lɒtəs.i.ər/ *n* a person who leads a lazy dreamy life and is not concerned with the business of the world (from the people in the *Odyssey* who behaved in this way after eating a fruit called a lotus)

lotus po-si-tion /'lɒtəs.pə.ʒi.ʃən/ [the] a position in YOGA in which you sit on the floor with your legs crossed and your hands on your knees, esp. when you want to MEDITATE

lotus position



loud¹ /laʊd/ *adj* 1 having or producing great strength of sound: *The radio isn't loud enough; could you turn it up?* | *loud music* | *loud protests* 2 attracting attention by being unpleasantly noisy or colourful: *a loud young man who stood at the desk demanding to see the manager* | *He was wearing a rather loud shirt.* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

loud² *adv* loudly; in a loud way: *Could you speak a little louder?* | *He read the news article out loud.* (=so people could hear it) —see also **for crying out loud** (CRY¹)

loud-hail-er /'laʊd'heɪlə/ *n* esp. *BrE* for MEGAPHONE

loud-mouth /'laʊdmaʊθ/ *n* -mouths /maʊðz/ *infml derog* a person who talks too much and in an offensive way — **~ed** *adj*

loud-speak-er /'laʊd'spi:kə/ *n* 1 a SPEAKER (4) 2 an apparatus for making sounds louder: *The police addressed the crowd through a loudspeaker on their car.*

lough /lɒx, lɒk || lɑ:k, lɑ:x/ *n* (in Ireland) a lake or a part of the sea almost surrounded by land

Lough Neagh /'lɒx 'neɪ, lɒk-||lɑ:k-, lɑ:x-/ a lake in Northern Ireland west of Belfast, the largest in the British Isles, popular with walkers and for sailing YACHTS

Lou-is XIV /'lu:zi də fɔ:'ti:nθ||fɔ:r-/ (1638–1715) a King of France, who is also called the **Sun King** because of the beauty and RICHES of his court at Versailles —see also LOUIS QUATORZE

Louis XV /'lu:zi də fɪf'ti:nθ/ (1710–74) the King of France from 1715 to 1774

Louis XVI /'lu:zi də sɪks'ti:nθ/ (1754–93) the King of France at the time of the French Revolution, who was killed on the GUILLOTINE

Lou-is /'lu:ɪs/, **Joe** (1914–81) an American BOXER, the world HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION from 1937 to 1948

Lou-i-si-a-na /lu:zɪ'zi:ənə/ *written abbrev.* **LA** a state in the southern US whose largest city is New Orleans —see colour map on pages 1374–5

love-ly¹ /'lʌvli/ *adj* **1** beautiful, attractive, etc., esp. to both the heart and the eye: *a lovely girl* | *a lovely view* **2** *informal* a very pleasant or enjoyable: *a lovely meal* | *lovely*

weather **b** esp. BrE (used for expressing thanks): "The typing's done." "(That's) lovely, Sally." — **liness** *n* [U]

▷ **USAGE** **Lovely** is not usually used to describe the physical appearance of men. Instead, **handsome** or **good-looking** is used. — see also **BEAUTIFUL** (**USAGE**) <

lovely² *n* *infml*, becoming rare a beautiful woman

love-mak-ing /'lʌv, meɪkɪŋ/ *n* [U] *euph* sexual activity, esp. the act of having sex — see also **make love** (**LOVE**¹)

love nest /'lʌv, nest/ (used esp. in newspapers) a small flat, room, or house used by two people having a sexual relationship, esp. one which is secret because they are not supposed to be together: *Pop star shared love nest with banker's wife.*

love po-tion /'lʌv, pɔːʃən/ *n* a liquid mixture intended to make the person who drinks it fall in love with someone in particular. Most people in the West do not believe in this sort of magic, although love potions are found in old stories.

lov-er /'lʌvə/ *n* **1** a person (usu. a man) who has a sexual relationship with another person outside marriage, esp. over a long period: *She has had many lovers.* | *He is her lover.* — compare **LOVE**¹ (5), **MISTRESS** (2) **2** a sexual partner: *Women today are expected to be wage-earner, wife, mother and lover.* **3** a person who is very fond of or interested in the stated thing: *a lover of good food* | *art/music lovers*

lov-ers /'lʌvəz/ *n* [P] two people in love with and/or having a sexual relationship with each other: *They met in June and became lovers soon after.*

love-seat /'lʌv, si:t/ *n* AmE an S-shaped sofa designed so that two people can sit side-by-side while facing each other: *A couch will be too big for this room but a loveseat will fit just fine.*

love-sick /'lʌv, sɪk/ *adj* sad or ill because of unreturned love: *a lovesick poet*

Love's La-bour's Lost /'lʌv, sɪz/ a humorous play by William Shakespeare in which a king and some of his noblemen (**NOBLEMAN**) swear to live away from the king's court, to study, and to have no dealings with women. However, they meet a princess and her ladies and find they cannot keep their promises.

Love Sto-ry /'lʌv, stɔːri/ the title of a popular book by Erich Segal and of a film with Ali McGraw and Ryan O'Neal in which two young people fall in love and get married, but the woman dies young of **CANCER**

lov-ey also **luvvie** /'lʌvi/ *n* BrE *infml* a word used to address a person, esp. a woman (though it is usu. considered offensive by them) or child: *Come here, lovey!*

lov-ey-dov-ey /'lʌv, ɒv, ɒv/ *adj* *infml* *derog* too loving in a ROMANTIC way; SENTIMENTAL: *I'm getting a bit sick of their lovey-dovey behaviour.*

lov-ing /'lʌvɪŋ/ *adj* showing or expressing love; fond: *a loving look* | *a loving father* — **~ly** *adv*: *They were looking at each other lovingly.* | *He polished his new sports car lovingly.*

loving cup /'lʌv, kʌp/ *n* a very large cup, usu. with two handles that used to be passed round at ceremonial meals in former times, to be drunk out of by everyone

loving kind-ness /'lʌv, kɪnd, nes/ *n* [U] esp. *lit* gentle and tender care, friendship, or love

low¹ /ləʊ/ *adj* **1** not measuring much from the base to the top; not high: *He jumped over the low wall.* | *a long low building* **2** not far above the ground, floor, base, or bottom: *a low shelf* | *low clouds* | *The mirror is too low — I can't see the top of my head in it.* | (fig.) *That comes/is low on the list of jobs to be done.* (=It is not one of the most important jobs.) | (fig., old use) *a man of low* (=not noble) *birth* **3** being or lying below the usual level or height: *a low bridge* | *low ground* | *The river is getting low and will soon dry up.* **4** small in size, degree, amount, or value: *a low temperature* | *That figure seems very low; can it be right?* | *The price of oil is at its lowest level for ten years.* | *families on low incomes* | *a child of low intelligence* | *a low-budget film* **5** [F (on)] near or at the end of a supply or measure: *The coal's getting low/We're getting low on coal; we must order some more.* **6** [(in)] having only a small amount of a particular substance, quality, etc.: *This milk is low in fat* | *low-tar cigarettes* | *low-alcohol wine* **7** not loud; soft: *She heard a low moaning noise.* | *Keep your voices low — I don't want her to hear us.* **8** (of a musical note) deep: *This song is too low for*

a tenor. **9** unhappy; DEPRESSED: *She's still feeling a bit low about failing that exam.* | *in rather low spirits* **10** regarding something as of little worth; unfavourable: *I have a low opinion of that book.* **11** for a slow speed: *Use a low gear when driving slowly.* **12** not fair, generous, or honest; DISHONOURABLE: *That was a low trick.* — opposite **high** (for 1,2,3,4,6,8,10,11); see also **lay someone low** (**LAY**²), **lie low** (**LIE**¹); see **HIGH**¹ (**USAGE**) — **~ness** *n* [U]

low² *adv* **1** in or to a low position, degree, manner, or level: *He was bent low over a book.* | *We turned the heating down low.* | *low-paid workers* | *The price of coffee sank lower today due to rumours of a big harvest.* **2** near the ground, floor, base, etc.; not high: *The sun sank low in the sky.* | *Watch out for low-flying aircraft.* **3** (in music) in or with deep notes — opposite **high** **4** quietly; softly — see also **LOWLY**, **high and low** (**HIGH**²)

low³ *n* **1** [C] a low point, price, degree, or level: *Profits have reached an all-time low this month.* — opposite **high** **2** [C] an area of low pressure in the air — opposite **high** **3** [U] the GEAR that is used to make a vehicle move slowly

low⁴ *v* [I] esp. *lit* to make the sound of a cow; MOO

low-born /'ləʊ, bɔːn/ *adj* *lit* born to parents of low social class

low-brow /'ləʊbraʊ/ *n* usu. *derog* a person who has no interest in literature, the ARTS, etc. — compare **HIGHBROW**, **MIDDLEBROW** — **lowbrow** *adj*

low-cal, **lo-cal** /'ləʊ kæl/ *adj* AmE *infml* having few CALORIES: *a low-cal ice cream*

Low Church /'ləʊ, tʃɜːtʃ/ *adj* (in the Christian religion, esp. the Church of England) believing in the importance of faith and studying the Bible, rather than in religious ceremonies — compare **HIGH CHURCH**

low com-e-dy /'ləʊ, kɒm, ɛdɪ/ *n* [C;U] a (type of) funny play similar to **FARCE**

Low Coun-tries /'ləʊ, kʌn, trɪz/ [the+P] a REGION in NW Europe which includes Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the area which used to be called Flanders; also known as **Benelux**

low-cut /'ləʊ, kʌt/ *adj* (of a dress or article of clothing worn on the upper half of the body, usu. by a female) cut in a way that shows the wearer's neck and top of the chest, or CLEAVAGE (2): *a low-cut evening dress* — compare **LOW-NECKED**

low-down /'ləʊdaʊn/ *n* [the (on)] *sl* the true and often secret information about a person, event, etc.: *He says he has the lowdown on what happened at the negotiations.*

low-down /'ləʊ, daʊn/ *adj* [A] *infml* dishonest and dishonourable; CONTEMPTIBLE: *a dirty low-down trick*

Lowe /ləʊ/, **Arthur** (1914–82) an English theatre and film actor, famous esp. as Captain Mainwaring in the BBC television series *Dad's Army*

Low-ell /'ləʊəl/, **Rob-ert** /'rɒbət/ || 'rɔːbərt/ (1917–77) an American poet and writer of plays. His opposition to the Vietnam War and support of Senator McCarthy are recorded in his *Notebook* 1967–1968.

low-er¹ /'ləʊə/ *adj* [A] in or being the bottom part: *He was wounded in the lower leg.* (=the bottom part of the leg) | *on the lower deck of the ship* — opposite **upper**

lower² *v* **1** [I;T] to make or become smaller in amount, degree, strength, etc.: *They've lowered the price from £15 to £10.* | *Please lower your voice.* **2** [T] to move or let down in height: *They lowered the coffin into the grave.* | *Flags were lowered to half-mast.* **3** [T usu. in negatives] to bring (someone, esp. oneself) down in worth or opinion by behaving in an immoral or dishonourable way: *I wouldn't lower myself to take part in such a dishonest business.*

low-er³, **lour** /'ləʊə/ *v* [I] **1** (of the sky or weather) to be dark and threatening: *a lowering sky before the storm* **2** [(at, on, upon)] to look in a dissatisfied bad-tempered manner; FROWN

lower case /'ləʊə, keɪs/ *n* [U] letters written or printed in the usual small form (such as a, b, c) rather than in the large (CAPITAL OR UPPER CASE) form (such as A, B, C) — compare **CAPITAL** — **lower case** *adj*

lower class /'ləʊə, klɑːs/ also **lower classes** *pl.* — *n* [the+sing./pl. *v*] often *derog* a social class of the lowest rank; **WORKING CLASS**: *a member of the lower class/lower classes* — compare **MIDDLE CLASS**, **UPPER CLASS**; see **WORKING CLASS** (**USAGE**) and see also extra information on page 1258

–**lower-class** *adj*: a lower-class background

Lower East Side /ˌlɒː ˈiː ˌsɑː/ also **East Side** [the] the south-eastern part of Manhattan in New York, lived in mostly by people who have come to the US from other countries. This is one of the poorer parts of the city.

Lower House /ˌlɒː ˈhʌʊs/ also **Lower Chamber** /ˌlɒː ˈtʃæmˌbər/ [the] either of the two branches of a law-making body, esp. the one that is larger, more representative, and more powerful, such as the British House of Commons or the American House of Representatives

lower middle-class /ˌlɒː ˈmɪdl̩ ˌkɪs/ [the] (in Britain) the part of society which sees itself and is seen by others as being between WORKING CLASS and MIDDLE CLASS. Typically, lower middle-class people work in offices and shops. They may enjoy some of the activities which middle-class people enjoy, but have not usu. had the good education which is typical of middle-class people. –**lower middle-class** *adj*: My family are lower middle-class.

low-er-most /ˌlɒː ˈmɒst/ *adj* fml lowest

lower orders /ˌlɒː ˈɔːdəz/ [the+P] *derog* people from the lower ranks of a society. This word is used by people who consider themselves to be more important than people of lower social rank: *unseemly outbursts of discontent among the lower orders*

lower sixth /ˌlɒː ˈsɪks/ *n* [C+sing./pl.v] the first year of the SIXTH FORM in British schools –compare UPPER SIXTH

lowest common de-nom-i-na-tor /ˌlɒː ˈkɒmən ˌdeɪnəˈmɪnətər/ *n* [U] 1 *math* the smallest number that can be the DENOMINATOR in a group of FRACTIONS 2 the largest group of people who will watch or listen to something, esp. television, even if it is not very good: *The president's speech is designed to appeal to the lowest common denominator and doesn't actually say very much of importance.* | *TV shows often seem aimed at the lowest common denominator.*

lowest common mul-ti-ple /ˌlɒː ˈkɒmən ˌmʌltɪˈpl̩/ also **LCM**, **least common multiple** the smallest number that two other numbers divide into exactly: *12 is the lowest common multiple of 4 and 6*

low-fat /ˌlɒː ˈfæt/ *adj* (of food, cookery) containing or using only a small amount of fat: *low-fat skimmed milk* | *a low-fat way of cooking*

low-key /ˌlɒː ˈkeɪ/ *adj* controlled in style or quality; not loud, bright, or forceful: *The prime minister made a low-key speech, hoping to calm the situation.*

low-land /ˌlɒː ˈlænd/ also **lowlands** *pl.* – *adj*, *n* [A;U] (of) an area of land that is lower than the land surrounding it: *These cattle thrive best in lowland areas.*

low-land-er /ˌlɒː ˈlændər/ *n* a person who lives in a lowland area

Low-lands /ˌlɒː ˈlændz/ [the+P] the central and eastern part of Scotland which is lower than the land surrounding it –compare HIGHLANDS

low-la-ther /ˌlɒː ˈlæθər/ *adj* (of washing powder etc.) producing less LATHER¹ than other products do

low life /ˌlɒː ˈlaɪf/ *n* [U] 1 the life and behaviour of people of low social class, esp. those who live in big cities and take part in criminal activities: *a well-known novel about low life in Chicago during the 1930s* 2 *AmE sl* a person who takes part in criminal activities or who is bad: *John's turned out to be a real lowlife.*

low-ly¹ /ˌlɒː ˈli/ *adv* [+v-ed] in a low level or degree: *lowly paid workers* –see also LOW²

lowly² *adj* low in rank, position, or social class; HUMBLE: *a lowly bank clerk* –**liness** *n* [U]

low-ly-ing /ˌlɒː ˈlaɪɪŋ/ *adj* 1 (of land) not much above the level of the sea; not high: *low-lying fields* 2 below the usual level: *low-lying clouds*

low-necked /ˌlɒː ˈnekəd/ *adj* (of an article of women's clothing) cut so as to leave the neck and shoulders uncovered –compare LOW-CUT

low-pitched /ˌlɒː ˈpɪtʃəd/ *adj* 1 (of a musical note) deep 2 (of a roof) not steep

low pro-file /ˌlɒː ˈprɒfɪl/ *n* [usu. sing.] the state of not drawing attention to oneself or one's actions: *We'd better keep a low profile until the public outcry has died down.* –opposite **high profile** –**low-profile** *adj*

low-rid-er /ˌlɒː ˈraɪdər/ *n* *AmE* 1 a car whose bottom is very low to the ground, esp. one that is decorated inside and out with lights and other things that draw attention to

it 2 a person, usu. a TEENAGE boy, who drives such a car, often thought of as likely to cause trouble

low-rise /ˌlɒː ˈraɪz/ *adj* [A] (of a building) having only one or two floors (STOREYS) –compare HIGH-RISE

Low-ry /ˌlɒː ˈraɪ/ *L S* (1887–1976) an English artist whose paintings of the industrial North of England showing factories and crowds of people are all drawn in a very simple style as if done by a child

low sea-son /ˌlɒː ˈsiːzən/ *n* [(the) U] the time of year when business activity and prices are at their lowest: *Winter is (the) low season at seaside hotels.* –compare HIGH SEASON

low-so-di-um /ˌlɒː ˈsɒdiəm/ *adj* (of food) containing only a small amount of SODIUM, usu. in the form of salt: *a low-sodium diet*

low-spir-it-ed /ˌlɒː ˈspɪrɪtəd/ *adj* unhappy; LOW¹ (9)

Low Sun-day /ˌlɒː ˈsʌndi/ the Sunday following Easter

low-tech /ˌlɒː ˈteɪk/ *adj* not using advanced machines, processes, or methods, e.g. in business or industry

low tide /ˌlɒː ˈtaɪd/ *n* [C;U] the moment when the water is at its lowest point on the sea shore because the TIDE has gone out –opposite **high tide**

low wa-ter /ˌlɒː ˈwɔːtər/ *n* [U] the moment when the water in a river is at its lowest point because of the TIDE –opposite **high water**

low water mark /ˌlɒː ˈwɔːtər ˌmɑːk/ *n* 1 a mark showing the lowest point reached by a body of water, such as a river 2 the lowest point of success: *Our fortunes had reached their low water mark.* –opposite **high water mark**

lox /lɒks/ [lɔːks/ *n* [U] *AmE* SALMON (a fish) preserved with smoke. Lox is often eaten with BAGELS.

loy-al /ˌlɒː ˈleɪ/ *adj* [(to)] faithful to one's friends, principles, country, etc.; always giving support: *He has remained loyal to the team even though they lose every game.* | *a loyal supporter of the government* –**ly** *adv*

loy-al-ist /ˌlɒː ˈleɪst/ *n* a person who remains loyal to an existing government when opposed by those who want to change it –**loyalist** *adj*

Loyalist *n* 1 a Protestant in Northern Ireland who believes that it should remain part of the UK 2 someone who was loyal to the royal family during the English Civil War 3 someone who supported the elected government during the Spanish Civil War 4 someone who fought with the British during the War of American Independence 5 someone who supported the cause of the Union during the American Civil War –**Loyalist** *adj*: *the Loyalist flag/anthem*

loy-al-ty /ˌlɒː ˈleɪti/ *n* 1 [U (to)] the quality of being loyal: *No one could ever doubt her loyalty.* 2 [C usu. pl.] a feeling of being loyal to someone or something: *She felt a strong loyalty to the old ideas.* | *He had divided loyalties; he wanted to be loyal to the company, but he also wanted to do what was best for his family.*

loz-enge /ˌlɒː ˈzɛndʒ/ [ˈlɑː-/ *n* 1 a small flat sweet, esp. one that contains medicine and melts slowly in the mouth: *a cough lozenge* 2 *tech* a shape that has four straight and equal sides, with two sharp angles opposite each other and two wide angles

LP /ˌel ˈpiː/ also **long-player**, **long-playing record**, **album** – *n* a record that turns 33 times a minute, and usu. plays for between 20 and 25 minutes per side

LPG /ˌel ˈpiː ˈdʒiː/ *n* [U] liquefied petroleum gas; gas such as PROPANE, obtained from oil, kept in liquid form under pressure, and used as a FUEL for motor vehicles: *All the fork-lift trucks in this factory run on LPG.* **L-plate**

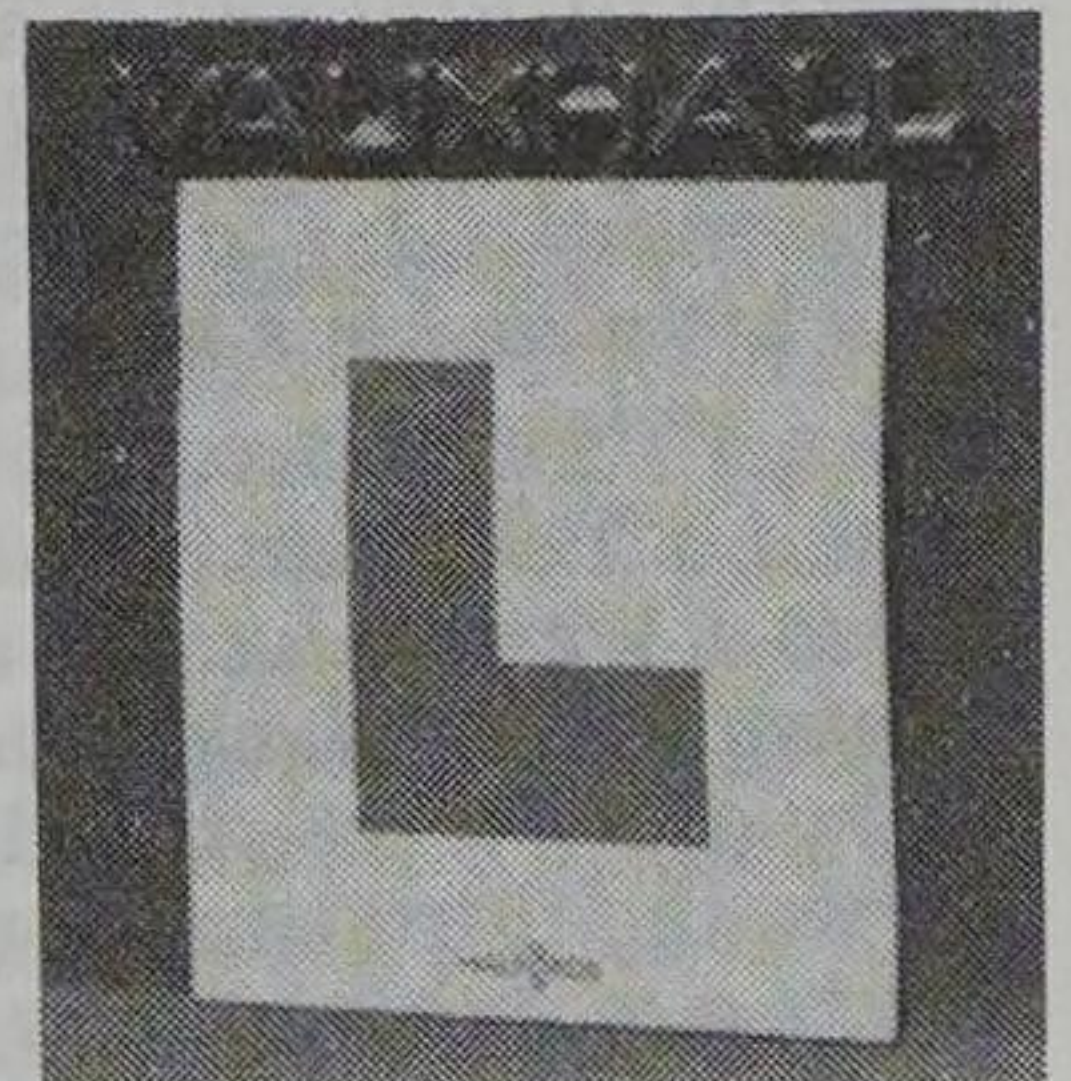
L-plate /ˌel ˈpleɪt/ *n* *BrE* either of two flat squares marked with a red letter L, that must be fixed to the front and back of a vehicle which is being driven by a learner

LPN /ˌel ˈpiː ˈen/ *n* LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

LPO /ˌel ˈpiː ˈəʊ/ [the] LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

LRT /ˌel ˈɑː ˈtiː/ [ˈɑːr-/ LONDON REGIONAL TRANSPORT

LRV /ˌel ˈɑː ˈviː/ [ˈɑːr-/ also **Light Rail Vehicle** – *n* a kind of train whose tracks run in or between streets, used in many cities esp. in the US



LSAT /ˌel es eɪ ˈtiː/ *n* abbrev for Law School Admissions Test; a national examination necessary to enter an American law school

Lsd, £sd /ˌel es ˈdiː/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* (used esp. before decimal money was introduced in Britain) money

LSD /ˌel es ˈdiː/ also **acid sl-** *n* [U] an **ILLEGAL** drug that causes the user to see life and the world as much more beautiful, strange, frightening, etc., than usual, and sometimes to see things that do not exist. It was used esp. in the 1960s: *He was on an LSD trip.* (=experienced the effects of LSD)

LSE /ˌel es ˈiː/ *abbrev. for:* LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

LSO /ˌel es ˈəʊ/ [*the*] LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Lt. *n* written *abbrev. for:* LIEUTENANT

Ltd *written abbrev. for:* LIMITED (2): *M. Y. Dixon and Son, Ltd, Booksellers* —compare **INC, PLC**

lu-au /ˈluːaʊ/ *n* *AmE* a party held outside which usu. has Hawaiian food or entertainment

lu-bri-cant /ˈluːbrɪkənt/ *n* [C;U] a substance, esp. a type of oil, used for making parts in a machine, etc., move easily and smoothly without rubbing or sticking

lu-bri-cate /ˈluːbrɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] to cause to move or work easily and smoothly without rubbing or sticking, esp. by means of a lubricant: *This oil lubricates the machine.* | (fig.) *A few whiskies will lubricate his tongue.* (=make him speak freely) —**cator** *n*: *Oil is a good lubricator.* —**cation** /ˈluːbrɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

lu-bri-cious /ˈluːbrɪʃəs/ *adj fml* showing too great an interest in sex, esp. in a way that is unpleasant or socially unacceptable

Luc-ca /ˈlʊkə||ˈluː-/ a city in N Italy

lu-cerne /ˈluːsɜːn||-ɜːrən/ *BrE* ALFALFA

Lucerne a city in central Switzerland on **Lake Lucerne**

lu-cid /ˈluːsɪd/ *adj* **1** well expressed and easy to understand; clear: *a lucid explanation* **2** able to understand clearly, but perhaps only for a short time: *The old man is confused most of the time but he does have lucid moments.* —**ly** *adv* —**ity** /ˈluːsɪdɪti/ *n* [U]

Lu-ci-fer /ˈluːsɪfə/ the **ARCHANGEL** in the Bible who led the **ANGELS** in a **REVOLT** and was forced to leave Heaven and live in Hell; Satan; the Devil

luck ¹ /lʌk/ *n* [U] **1** the good or bad things that happen to a person in the course of events (as if) by chance; fate; fortune: *Luck was with us/was on our side and we won easily.* | *I've had bad luck all week.* | *The hotel was full, so we decided to try our luck elsewhere.* | **As luck would have it** (=by chance) *a policeman was passing by.* | (*infml*) *He reached the food before I did, worse luck!* (=unfortunately) | *When I got to the theatre they had just sold the last ticket — that's just my luck!* (=typical of my luck) **2** success or something good that happens as a result of chance; good fortune: *Good luck!* | *I wish you luck/the best of luck.* | *She won £500 in the lottery; some people have all the luck!* | *This charm will bring you luck.* | *What a stroke of luck I met you in time to stop you!* | *Give it three drops of oil — and one more for luck!* | *I'm sorry you didn't pass your driving test — better luck next time!* **3** **be down on one's luck** to have bad luck, esp. to be without money **4** **be in/out of luck** to have/not have good fortune: *We're in luck; the train hasn't left yet.* —see also **HARD LUCK, push one's luck** (**PUSH**¹)

luck² *v*

luck out *phr v* [I] *AmE infml* to be lucky: *We really lucked out finding this nice apartment for such a low rent.*

luck-i-ly /ˈlʌkɪli/ *adv* as a result of good luck: *Luckily (for me), she was in when I called.*

luck-less /ˈlʌkləs/ *adj* esp. *lit* without good fortune; unlucky: *a luckless man*

luck-y /ˈlʌki/ *adj* having, resulting from, or bringing good luck: *a lucky man* | *a lucky escape* | *to wear a lucky charm* [+to-*v*] *We were lucky to escape injury.* [+*(that)*] *You should count yourself lucky (that) he didn't hear what you said.* | *Try once more — third time lucky!* (=you should succeed the third time you try) | *"I'm going to ask if I can take a month's holiday."* **"You'll be lucky!"** (=you are very unlikely to get what you ask for, because you are asking for too much) —**iness** *n* [U]

►**CULTURAL NOTE** Some things which are considered lucky are: finding a **FOUR-LEAVED CLOVER**, seeing two

MAGPIES together, and a black cat crossing one's path. Few people really believe that these things bring good luck, but lucky things are still mentioned in conversation. —see also **SUPERSTITION, UNLUCKY** ◀

lucky dip /ˌlʊki ˈdɪp/ *n* *BrE* **1** [C] **grab bag** *AmE*— a container filled with wrapped objects of various values, into which a person puts their hand and picks one out; it is often a way of giving small presents to children at a party **2** [S] *infml* something whose result depends on chance; **LOTTERY**

Lucky Jim /ˌlʌki ˈdʒɪm/ a **NOVEL** by Kingsley Amis (1954) about a college teacher who has **RADICAL** political ideas

Lu-co-zade /ˈluːkəzeɪd/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a soft drink which contains **GLUCOSE**. Advertisements for Lucozade claim that "Lucozade aids recovery" (=helps people to get better after they have been ill).

lu-cra-tive /ˈluːkrətɪv/ *adj* (esp. of a business, trade, or job) bringing in plenty of money; profitable —**ly** *adv*

lu-cre /ˈluːkrə/ *n* [U] *derog or humor* money or profit (esp. in the phrase **filthy lucre**)

Lu-cre-tius /luːˈkriːʃəs/ (99?–55 BC) a Roman thinker and poet whose best-known work is *De rerum natura* (on the nature of things)

lud-dite /ˈlʌdaɪt/ *n* *derog (often cap.)* someone who is opposed to change, esp. the introduction of new work methods and machinery (from the **Luddites**, groups of English industrial workers in the early 19th century who tried to destroy new labour-saving machinery as a protest against unemployment and low pay)

lu-di-crous /ˈluːdɪkrəs/ *adj* so foolish as to cause or deserve disrespectful laughter; **RIDICULOUS**: *What a ludicrous suggestion!* | *Grandad looks absolutely ludicrous in Mum's old sunhat.* —**ly** *adv* —**ness** *n* [U]

lu-do /ˈluːdəʊ/ *BrE* || **Parcheesi** *AmE* *tdmk*— *n* [U] a children's game played with small flat objects (**COUNTERS**² (2)) on a board

luff /lʌf/ *v* [I (UP)] *naut* to bring the front of a sailing boat closer to or directly facing the wind

Luft-waf-fe /ˈlʊftwæfə||-vɑːfə/ [*the*] the German Air Force just before and during the Second World War —see also **BLITZ**

lug¹ /lʌg/ *v* -**gg-** [T+*obj+adv/prep*] *infml* to pull or carry with great effort and difficulty: *She lugged the heavy case up the stairs.*

lug² *n* **1** a little piece, such as a small handle, that sticks out from something **2** a **LUGHOLE** **3** a **LUGSAIL** **4** a **LUG-WORM** **5** *AmE sl* a rough, awkward, and stupid person

luge /luːʒ/ *n* [U;C] a sport in which a person slides down a track made of ice on a special vehicle with long metal blades instead of wheels (a **luge**)

Lu-ger /ˈluːgə/ *n* *tdmk* a German hand gun developed in 1902 by **George Luger** and used by German soldiers and sailors until 1938

lug-gage /ˈlʌɡɪdʒ/ *esp. BrE* || also **baggage** *esp. AmE*— *n* [U] the cases, bags, boxes, etc., of a traveller: *I've put your luggage on the train.* —see also **HAND LUGGAGE**

luggage rack /ˈlʊ..-/ *n* *esp. BrE* a shelf in a train, bus, etc., for putting one's bags and cases on

lugg-age tro-lley /ˈlʊ..-/ *n* *BrE* **1** a metal frame with two wheels at the bottom, on which a heavy bag or **SUITCASE** can be fastened and pulled along **2** || **baggage cart** *AmE*— a small cart which is often provided at an airport or station to help people move their luggage

luggage van /ˈlʊ..-/ *BrE* || **baggage car** *AmE*— *n* the part of a train in which only boxes, cases, etc., are carried

lug-ger /ˈlʌgə/ *n* a small boat with one or more lugsails

lug-hole /ˈlʌghəʊl, ˈlʌgəʊl/ also **lug**— *n* *BrE humor* an ear

lug-sail /ˈlʌgseɪl, -səl/ also **lug**— *n* a four-sided sail supported on a bar that hangs sloping from the main **MAST** of a boat

lu-gu-bri-ous /luːˈguːbrɪəs/ *adj* sorrowful; **MOURNFUL**: *a lugubrious expression* —**ly** *adv* —**ness** *n* [U]

lug-worm /ˈlʌgwɜːm||-wɜːrm/ also **lug**— *n* a small worm that lives in the sand by the sea and is used by fishermen to catch fish

Lu Hsün /ˌluː ˈfʊn/ see **LU XUN**

Luke, Saint see **SAINT LUKE**

luke-warm /ˌluːk ˈwɔːm||-ɔːrm/ *adj* *usu. derog* **1** (esp. of

liquid) slightly warm; **TEPID** **2** showing hardly any interest; not eager: *His plan got a lukewarm reception from the committee.*

lull¹ /lʌl/ *v* [T] to cause to sleep, rest, or become less active: *The movement of the train lulled me to sleep.* | *Their plan was to lull their opponents into a false sense of security, and then strike.*

lull² *n* [S (in)] a (short) period of reduced activity: *a lull in the fighting*

lul-la-by /'lʌləbaɪ/ *n* a pleasant song used for causing children to sleep

lu-lu /'luːluː/ *n* *AmE infml* something very good or exciting: *The roller coaster at Magic Mountain is a real lulu.*

Lulu (1948–) the professional name of a Scottish female popular music singer who made several successful records in the 1960s, including *Shout*

lum-ba-go /lʌm'beɪgəʊ/ *n* [U] *not tech* pain in the lower back

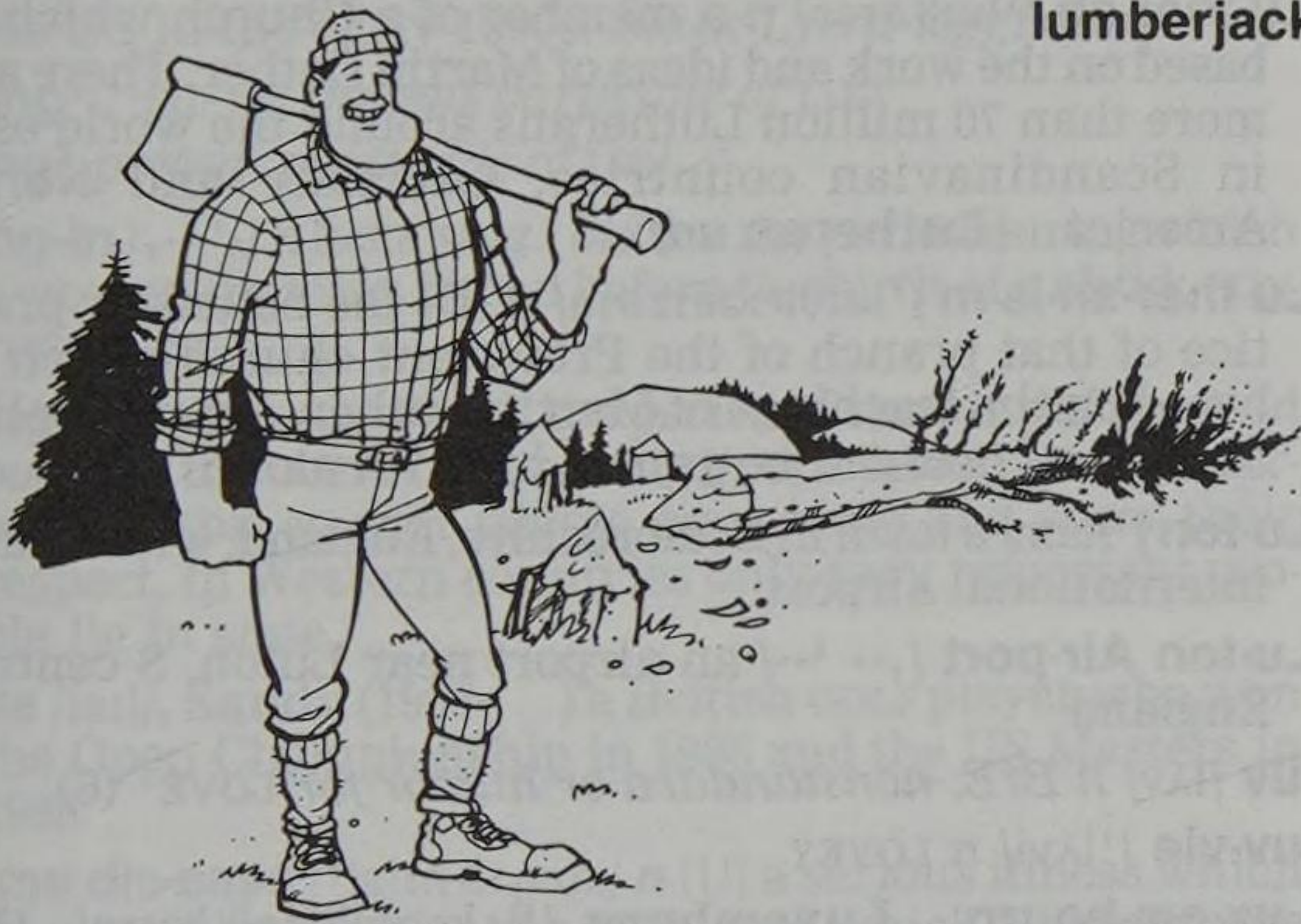
lum-bar /'lʌmbə/ *adj med* of the lower part of the back

lum-ber¹ /'lʌmbə/ *v* [I+adv/prep] to move in a heavy awkward manner: *The old truck lumbered up the hill.*

lumber² *n* [U] **1** *esp. BrE* useless or unwanted articles, such as furniture, stored away somewhere **2** *esp. AmE* for **TIMBER**

lumber³ *v* **1** [T (with) often pass.] *BrE infml* to cause difficulty to (someone), esp. by giving them an unwanted object or responsibility: *The suppliers have lumbered me with 60 cases of wine I can't sell.* | *As usual, I got lumbered with (having to pay) the bill.* **2** [I] *AmE* to cut trees or wood into **TIMBER**

lumberjack



lum-ber-jack /'lʌmbədʒæk/ *n* (esp. in the US and Canada) a person who cuts down trees for wood

lum-ber-man /'lʌmbəmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ *AmE* a man whose business is the cutting down of trees and the selling of wood

lum-ber-mill /'lʌmbəmɪl/ *n* *AmE* for **SAWMILL**

lumber-room /'.../ *n* *esp. BrE* a room in which useless or unwanted furniture, broken machines, etc., are stored

lum-ber-yard /'lʌmbəjɑːd/ *n* a yard where building wood, boards, etc., are kept for sale

Lu-mi-ère Brothers /'luːmiə ,brʌðəz/ ,luːmi'eə ,brʌðəz/ [*the* + P] two French brothers, Auguste (1861–1954) and Louis (1864–1948), who operated a photographic company and in 1895 produced the first cinema film

lu-mi-na-ry /'luːmɪnəri/ *n* *fml* someone who is famous and highly respected for their excellence in a particular art or activity: *the luminaries of the stage* (=famous actors)

lu-mi-nous /'luːmɪnəs/ *adj* able to shine, esp. in the dark: *luminous paint/safety clothing/road signs* — **~ly** *adv* — **-nosity** /'luːmɪ'nɒsɪti/ *n* [U]

Lum-ley /'lʌmli/, **Jo-an-na** /dʒəʊ'ænə/ (1946–) an English theatre and film actress

lum-me, **lummy** /'lʌmi/ *interj old-fash infml BrE* (an expression of surprise)

lump¹ /lʌmp/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a mass of something solid without a special size or shape: *a lump of mud/lead/coal* | *There are lumps in the sauce.* | (fig.) *The scene where the lovers say goodbye really brought a lump to my throat.* (=made me feel very sad) — see **CHUNK** (USAGE), and see picture at **PIECE** **2** [C] a hard swelling on the body

► **CULTURAL NOTE** People sometimes feel worried or frightened if they feel a lump on their body because it may be a sign of **CANCER**, even though many lumps are often harmless. In most Western countries, women are encouraged to check their breasts regularly for lumps. ◀

3 [C (of)] a small square-sided block (of sugar), esp. for use in tea or coffee: *Do you take one lump or two?* **4** [C] *infml* a stupid awkward ungraceful person: *You'll break it if you do it like that, you great lump!* **5** [*the*+sing./pl. v] *BrE infml* the group of workers in the building industry who are not employed on a continuous contract, but only as and when they are needed **6** **take one's lumps** *AmE infml* to suffer the bad results of one's actions

lump² *v* **lump it** *infml* to accept without complaint a bad situation that cannot be changed: *I'm not going to turn my radio off; you'll just have to (like it or) lump it!*

lump sthg. ↔ **together** *phr v* [T] to consider as a single unit or type: *The cost of these two trips can be lumped together for tax purposes.* | *The media tend to lump all these groups together.*

lump-ec-to-my /lʌmp'ektəmi/ *n* a medical operation in which a **TUMOUR** is removed from a person's body, esp. from a woman's breast in order to stop the spread of **CANCER**

lump-ish /'lʌmpɪʃ/ *adj infml* awkward or stupid

lump sum /'.../ *n* an amount of money given or received as a single unit rather than in separate parts at different times

lump-y /'lʌmpi/ *adj* filled or covered with lumps: *This sauce is rather lumpy.* | *a lumpy mattress*

lu-na-cy /'luːnəsi/ *n* [U] **1** the condition of being sick in the mind; madness **2** foolish or wild behaviour: *It would be sheer lunacy to try to sail across the Pacific alone without a radio.* — see also **LUNATIC**

lu-nar /'luːnə/ *adj* of, for, or to the moon: *a lunar eclipse* | *a lunar module* (=spacecraft that lands on the moon)

lunar month /'.../ *n* a period of 28 or 29 days counted from one new moon to the next — compare **CALENDAR MONTH**

lu-nate /'luːneɪt/ *adj tech* shaped like a **CRESCENT** moon (=when only the curved edge of it can be seen)

lu-na-tic¹ /'luːnətɪk/ *n* **1** *derog* an extremely foolish person: *You lunatic — you nearly drove straight into me!* **2** *now taboo* a person who is suffering from an illness of the mind: *a lunatic asylum* (=a hospital for lunatics) — see also **LUNACY**

lunatic² *adj derog* wildly foolish: *lunatic behaviour*

lunatic fringe /'.../ *n* [S+sing./pl. v] the people with the strangest or most unreasonable ideas or beliefs in a political or social group, esp. those whose ideas are the most **RADICAL** or the least acceptable to the people in power — see also **LOONY LEFT**

lunch¹ /lʌntʃ/ also **lunch-eon** /'lʌntʃən/ *fml* — *n* [C;U] a usu. light meal eaten in the middle of the day: *We have lunch at one o'clock.* | *It happened at/during lunch.* | *a business lunch* (=at which business is talked about) | *What would you like for lunch?* | *He takes a packed lunch/bag lunch* *AmE* (=SANDWICHES, etc.) *to work.* | *We had a working lunch/a late lunch.* | *It's lunchtime!* — see also **SUNDAY LUNCH**, see **DINNER** (USAGE)

lunch² *v* [I] *fml* to eat lunch: *We're lunching with the Forsyths today.*

lunch-box /'lʌntʃbɒks/ *n* a light box with a closing lid in which food is carried, usu. used by schoolchildren and working men

lun-cheon-ette /'lʌntʃə'net/ *n* *AmE* a small restaurant that serves simple meals

luncheon meat /'.../ *n* [U] meat, usu. **PORK**, which has been pressed into a square shape, usu. bought in a tin and eaten with a **SALAD** or in a **SANDWICH**. Luncheon meat was popular in Britain after the Second World War, but it is no longer considered to be a fashionable food. — see also **SPAM**

luncheon vou-cher /'.../ also **LV** *abbrev.* — *n* a kind of ticket sometimes given to people in Britain by their employers, in addition to their pay, which can be used to buy food at some restaurants or shops. Luncheon vouchers are often given to people such as office workers and although useful are not considered as desirable as **PERKS** which might be given to higher-paid employees, e.g. a company car or private medical insurance.

lunch hour /'lʌŋ- / also **lunch break**— *n* the period of time in the middle of the day (about an hour), when most employers allow their workers to stop work and have something to eat. People usu. stop work for half an hour or an hour, beginning some time between 12 o'clock and one o'clock. Many people eat lunch in a **CANTEEN** at the place where they work.

Lun-dy /'lʌndi/ an island in the Bristol Channel, off Devon, SW England, kept as a safe place for wild flowers, **SEALS**, and birds, esp. **PUFFINS**

lung /lʌŋ/ *n* either of the two breathing organs in the chest of humans or certain other animals: *Smoking can cause lung cancer.* | (*humor*) *The baby has a good pair of lungs.* (=can cry loudly) | *She was screaming at the top of her lungs.* (=very loudly) —see picture at **RESPIRATORY**

lunge /lʌndʒ/ *v* [**I** (**at**, **towards**)] to make a sudden forceful forward movement, esp. with the arm and often in order to make an attack: *He lunged at me with a knife.* —**lunge** *n*: *He made a lunge at me.*

lunk-head /'lʌŋkhed/ *n* *AmE infml* a stupid person: *That's not the way to do it, you lunkhead!*

lu-pin *BrE* || **lupine** *AmE* /'lu:pɪn/ *n* a garden plant with a tall stem covered in many flowers

lurch¹ /lɜ:tʃ||lɜ:rtʃ/ *v* [**I**] to move with irregular swinging or rolling movements: *The drunken man lurched across the street.* | *The truck lurched over the bumpy road.*

lurch² *n* **1** a lurching movement: *The boat gave a lurch and I fell overboard.* **2** *leave someone in the lurch* *infml* to leave someone alone and without help in a place or time of difficulty; desert someone

lure¹ /luəː, ljuəː||luəː/ *n* **1** [*the* (*of*)] the power to attract, esp. by seeming to promise pleasure, profit, etc., which may not in fact exist: *The prospectors of 1849 were drawn to California by the lure of gold.* | *the lure of fame* **2** [**C**] a piece of equipment, such as a plastic bird or fish, to attract animals into a place where they can be caught; **DECOY**

lure² *v* [**T**+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *usu. derog* to attract or **TEMPT** by seeming to promise pleasure, profit, etc.; **ENTICE**: *She lured him into the shop doorway and her accomplice hit him over the head.* | *He's been lured to the Middle East by the promise of high wages.*

Lu-rex /'ljuəreks||'luər-/ *n* [**U**] *tdmk* a type of thread which has an appearance like metal, usu. gold or silver, used in material for clothing, esp. evening wear: *a gold Lurex dress*

lur-gy /'lɜ:gi||-ɜ:r-/ *n* *BrE humor* an illness or disease

lu-rid /'luərɪd, 'ljuərɪd||'luərɪd/ *adj derog* **1** unnaturally bright or strongly coloured: *a lurid sunset/carpet* **2** shocking, esp. because violent; unpleasant: *The papers gave all the lurid details of the murder.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [**U**]

lurk /lɜ:k||lɜ:rk/ *v* [**I**+*adv*/*prep*] *derog* **1** to move or wait quietly and secretly, as if intending to do something wrong and not wanting to be seen: *The photographer lurked behind a tree, waiting for her to come past.* | *There's someone lurking about outside.* **2** to exist unseen: *Danger lurks in that quiet river.* | *doubts that lurk in my mind*

Lu-sa-ka /lu:'sɜ:kə/ the capital city of Zambia

lus-cious /'lʌʃəs/ *adj apprec* **1** having a very pleasant sweet taste or smell: *luscious fruit/wine* **2** *infml* (*usu. considered offensive to women*) very sexually attractive: *a luscious waitress* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [**U**]

lush¹ /lʌʃ/ *adj* **1** (of a plant, esp. grass) growing very well, thickly, and healthily: *the lush meadows* | *lush tropical vegetation* **2** *infml* providing great comfort, esp. as a result of wealth: *I felt out of place in such lush surroundings.*

lush² *n* *sl, esp. AmE* a person who habitually drinks too much alcohol; **ALCOHOLIC**

Lu-si-ta-ni-a /,lu:zɪ'teɪniə/ [*the*] a British passenger ship sunk off the Irish coast in 1915 by the German navy during the First World War. 128 people, of the total 1195 killed, were Americans and the event added to anti-German feelings in America in favour of the US entering the war on the side of the Allies.

lust¹ /lʌst/ *n derog* **1** [**U**] very strong sexual desire, esp. when uncontrolled and not related to liking or love. Lust is one of the Seven Deadly Sins: *He attacked women to*

satisfy his lust. —see also **SEVEN DEADLY SINS** **2** [**C**; **U** (**for**)] strong desire; eagerness to possess something: *his unbribled lust for power* —see **DESIRE** (**USAGE**)

lust² *v*

lust after/for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [**T**] *derog* to desire very strongly, esp. sexually

lust-ful /'lʌstfəl/ *adj derog* full of strong esp. sexual desire —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [**U**]

lus-tre *BrE* || **-ter** *AmE* /'lʌstəː/ *n* [**S**; **U**] the brightness of a shiny polished surface: *the lustre of gold* | (*fig.*) *The company hope that this prestigious publication will add (a) new lustre (=glory, fame) to their image.*

lus-trous /'lʌstrəs/ *adj esp. lit* shining; **BRILLIANT**: *lustrous black hair* —**~ly** *adv*

lust-y /'lʌsti/ *adj apprec* full of strength, power, or health: *lusty singing* | *The baby gave a lusty cry.* —**~ily** *adv* —**~iness** *n* [**U**]

lu-ta-nist, **-tenist** /'lʌtənɪst/ *n* a person who plays a lute

lute /lʌt/ *n* a musical instrument with strings, having a long neck and a body shaped like a **PEAR**, played with the fingers and used esp. in former times

Lu-ther /'lu:θəː/, **Martin** (1483–1546) a German religious leader of the Reformation in Europe, which led to the establishment of the Protestant Church and its separation from the Catholic Church in the 16th century. He attacked the powers of the Pope and in 1517 he wrote 95 points criticizing the established church, which he nailed to the door of his church. He also translated the Bible into German. His ideas had great influence on German society and in other countries.

Lu-ther-an /'lu:θəːrən/ *n* a member of a Church which is based on the work and ideas of Martin Luther. There are more than 70 million Lutherans around the world esp. in Scandinavian countries, Germany and North America. —**Lutheran** *adj*

Lu-ther-an-is-m /'lu:θəːrənɪzəm/ *n* [**U**] the beliefs or practice of that branch of the Protestant church which is based on the teachings of Martin Luther, esp. the belief that **SALVATION** can be gained by faith alone

Lu-ton /'lu:tən/ a town in Bedfordshire, England, with a busy international airport

Lu-ton Air-port /,lʌtən 'eəpɔ:t/ an airport near Luton, S central England

luv /lʌv/ *n* *BrE, nonstandard or humor* for **LOVE**¹ (6)

luv-vie /'lʌvi/ *n* **LOVEY**

Lux-em-bourg, **Luxemburg** /'lʌksəmbɜ:ɡ||-bɜ:rg/, the **Grand Duchy** of a very small country in Western Europe bordered by Belgium, Germany, and France; capital Luxembourg; population 368,000 (1989) —**er** *n*

Lux-em-burg /'lʌksəmbɜ:ɡ||-bɜ:rg/, **Ro-sa** /'rəʊzə/ (1871–1919) a German political writer and **ACTIVIST**, born in Russian Poland, who helped establish the Socialist Party in Poland and a Marxist party in Germany. She was killed by soldiers in 1919.

Lux-or /'lʌksɔ:ː/ a city in central Egypt on the east bank of the River Nile, famous for its ancient temples and burial grounds

Lu Xun /,lu: 'ʃʊn/ (1881–1936) a Chinese writer of great influence, whose real name was **Zhou Shuren**. He criticized Chinese government thinking and encouraged people in China to become interested in Western ideas and science. He is famous for his short stories, esp. *The True Story of Ah Q*.

lux-u-ri-ant /lʌg'zjuəriənt, ləg'zjuəriənt||ləg'zjuəriənt/ *adj* **1** growing healthily and in large amounts: *Luxuriant forests covered the hills.* | *a luxuriant beard* **2** sometimes *derog* very highly decorated: *luxuriant prose* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ance** *n* [**U**]

lux-u-ri-ate /lʌg'zjuəriənt, ləg'zjuəri-||ləg'zjuəri-/ *v* **luxuriate in** sthg. *phr v* [**T**] to consciously enjoy oneself in; take great pleasure in (*esp. a situation of great comfort*): *luxuriating in a hot bath with a good book*

lux-u-ri-ous /lʌg'zjuəriəs, ləg'zjuəriəs||ləg'zjuəriəs/ *adj* **1** very fine and expensive: *a luxurious fur coat* **2** providing the greatest comfort: *She took a long luxurious hot bath.* —**~ly** *adv*

lux-u-ry /'lʌkfəri/ *n* **1** [**U**] a condition of great comfort provided without any consideration of the cost: *They led a life of luxury.* | *a luxury hotel* **2** [**C**] something that is

very pleasant and enjoyable, but not necessary and not often had or done: *Cream cakes are a luxury in our house.* | *We can't afford to spend money on luxuries.* | *Luxury items are heavily taxed.* | *It's a real luxury to be able to stay in bed instead of getting up for school.*

LV /,el 'vi:/ *abbrev. for:* LUNCHEON VOUCHER

LVN /,el vi: 'en/ *n AmE abbrev. for:* Licensed Vocational Nurse; a person who does almost the same work as a NURSE but only has two years of nursing education and is not allowed to give drugs, etc. —see also LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

LW *written abbrev. for:* LONG WAVE

-ly see WORD FORMATION

ly-can-thro-py /laɪ 'kænθrəpi/ *n* [U] in stories, the condition of changing from a person into a WOLF (=wild dog) esp. at the time of the full moon —see also WEREWOLF

ly-cée /'li:seɪ||li:'seɪ/ *n* a French school for older pupils, either in France or for French children abroad

ly-ce-um /laɪ 'si:əm/ *n AmE old-fash.* a building used for public speeches, concerts, meetings, etc.

Lyceum [the] a BALLROOM (=large room for dancing) near the Strand, central London

ly-chee, **litchi** /'laɪtʃi:/ *n* an Asian fruit with a hard rough nutlike shell and sweet white flesh that contains a single seed —see picture at FRUIT

lych-gate /'litʃgeɪt/ *n* a gate with a roof leading into the grounds of a church

Ly-cra /'laɪkrə/ *n tdmk* [U] a man-made elastic material used esp. in sports clothing, e.g. for runners and cyclists. It became fashionable with young people in Britain and the US in the early 1990s: *black Lycra leggings*

ly-ing¹ /'laɪ-ɪŋ/ *present participle of* LIE¹

lying² *present participle of* LIE³

lying-in /,ɪ- 'ɪ- / *n* [usu. sing.] *old use* the period during which a woman remains in bed before the birth of a child; CONFINEMENT

lying in state /,ɪ- 'ɪ- / *n* [S] the period of showing of the dead body, or the COFFIN containing it, of a famous and important person so that people may come and show their respect. In Western countries only very important people lie in state.

Lyle /laɪl/, **Sandy** (1958–) a British GOLF player who won the Open Championship in 1985 and the US Masters in 1988

Lyme dis-ease /'laɪm dɪ, zɪz/ *n* [U] a serious illness which is caused by the bite of a TICK³ and which is dangerous and very difficult to cure if it is not noticed early

Lyme Re-gis /,laɪm 'rɪdʒɪs/ a town in Dorset on the S coast of England, a popular place for holidays

Lymes-wold /'laɪmzwəʊld/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a soft English blue cheese which does not have a very strong taste. It was first produced in 1983 and some people who prefer TRADITIONAL English cheeses dislike and disapprove of it.

lymph /lɪmf/ *n* [U] a clear watery liquid formed in the body which passes into the blood system

lym-phat-ic /lɪm 'fætɪk/ *adj* connected with, producing, or containing lymph

lymph gland /'ɪ- ,ɪ- / also **lymph node**— *n* a fleshy area in the body through which lymph passes to be made pure before entering the blood system

Ly-nam /'laɪnəm/, **Des-mond** /'dez-mənd/ (1942–) a reporter and presenter of esp. sports programmes on British radio and television probably best known for presenting the television programme *Grandstand*

lynch /lɪntʃ/ *v* [T] (esp. of a crowd of people) to take hold of (a person thought to be guilty of a crime) and kill them, esp. by hanging, without a legal trial. Many people think of lynching in the context of the American Wild West and with the illegal killing of blacks in the South by the Ku Klux Klan or a MOB.

Lynch, Bet a character in *Coronation Street* (a popular British television SERIES) who is what many people think is a typical BARMAID. She has blonde hair and large breasts and wears a lot of MAKE-UP and jewellery. The character has married, and is now called Bet Gilroy, although most people still think of her as Bet Lynch.

Bet Lynch



lynch law /'ɪ- ,ɪ- / *n* [U] the punishment of someone who is thought to be guilty of a crime, usu. by death, without a legal trial

Lynn /lɪn/, **Lo-ret-ta** /lə'retə/ (1935–) an American popular music singer. A film based on her life was called *Coal Miner's Daughter*, which was also the title of one of her songs.

Lynn, Dame Ve-ra /'vɪərə/ (1917–) an English singer who was very popular during the Second World War. She was known as the "Forces' Sweetheart", and entertained soldiers with songs such as *We'll Meet Again* and *White Cliffs of Dover*.

lynx /lɪŋks/ *n* **lynxes** or **lynx** a strong wild animal of the cat family with long legs and a short tail —see picture at BIG CATS

Ly-ons /'li:ɒŋ||li:'ɑ:n/ the capital city of the Rhône department in the E of central France; French name **Lyon**

Ly-ons /'laɪənz/ *tdmk* a British company selling tea, coffee, and a variety of food products

Lyons, Joseph (1848–1917) a British businessman who began the **J Lyons** company in 1894, and helped to make tea-shops and **Corner Houses** (types of restaurant) popular

lyre /laɪə/ *n* an ancient Greek musical instrument with strings stretched on a U-shaped frame

lyre-bird /'laɪəbɜ:d||'laɪəbɜ:rd/ *n* an Australian bird, the male having a long tail shaped like a lyre

lyr-ic¹ /'lɪrɪk/ *adj* expressing strong personal feelings, usu. in songlike form: *lyric poetry* | *a lyric poet*

lyric² *n* a usu. short lyric poem —see also LYRICS

lyr-i-cal /'lɪrɪkəl/ *adj* full of joy, admiration, eagerness, etc.; expressing direct and usu. very strong personal feeling: *There's a wonderfully lyrical flute solo in the middle of this symphony.* | *She waxed (=became) lyrical about the beauties of the scenery.* — ~ **ly** /kli/ *adv*

lyr-i-cis-m /'lɪrɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] lyric or lyrical style or quality, esp. in poetry

lyr-i-cist /'lɪrɪsɪst/ *n* a writer of words for songs

lyr-ics /'lɪrɪks/ *n* [P] the words of a song, esp. a modern popular song

Lyt-tel-ton /'lɪtl-tən/, **Hum-phrey** /'hʌmfri/ (1921–) a British JAZZ musician, known as a TRUMPET player and band leader, who helped make New Orleans jazz popular in Britain in the 1950s

M

M /em/ **M's, m's or Ms, ms** 1 the 13th letter of the English alphabet 2 the ROMAN NUMERAL (number) for 1000

m written abbrev. for: 1 METRE 2 MARRIED 3 MILE

M abbrev. for: (BrE) MOTORWAY: driving up the M1

-'m /m/ short for: am: I'm ready. | "Are you French?" "Yes, I am/No, I'm not."

M1 /,em 'wʌn/ [the] a British MOTORWAY connecting London and Leeds

M25 /,em twenti'faɪv/ [the] a British MOTORWAY which runs all round London. The M25 was intended to lessen crowding on roads around London, but has attracted so much traffic that traffic often travels very slowly on it.

ma /mɑː/ *n* infml (usu. cap.) 1 a mother: my old ma | Give me some milk, Ma! 2 sometimes not polite, esp. AmE (a name for an (old) woman): You've dropped your bag, Ma! | Old Ma Harris was taken to the hospital yesterday.

MA /,em 'eɪ/ *n* Master of Arts; (a title for someone who has) a university degree in an arts subject at the first level above the BA. At some Scottish universities an MA is a first degree, at the same level as a BA: Address it to Mary Jones, MA. | He has an MA in linguistics. —compare MSC, and see DEGREE (3) (CULTURAL NOTE)

MA written abbrev. for: MASSACHUSETTS

maa /mɑː/ *v* [I] to make the sound that a goat makes —*maa n*

ma'am /mæm, mɑːm, məm/ *n* polite 1 (a short form for MADAM, used for addressing the Queen and, esp. formerly, women of high social class 2 AmE (a respectful word used for addressing a woman): Yes, ma'am, I will

Maas-tricht /'mɑːstrikt, -ɪxt/ a city in the Netherlands. In 1991, members of the EC met at Maastricht to discuss ways in which their countries could become closer in their political, economic, and monetary policies. The countries reached agreement and the Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1992.

Mab-i-nog-i-on /,mæbɪ'nɒɡiən/ -'nəʊɡiɑːn/, **The** a collection of old Welsh stories about magical and imaginary people and places

mac, mack /mæk/ *n* BrE infml for MACKINTOSH

Mac *n* AmE sl (used for speaking to a man whose name is not known)

ma-ca-bre /mə'kɑːbrə, -bəʔ/ *adj* causing fear, dislike, and shock, esp. because connected with death and the dead: a macabre tale about grave robbers | a rather macabre sense of humour —compare GRUESOME

ma-cad-am /mə'kædəm/ AmE for TARMAC

mac-a-da-mi-a nut /,mækə'deɪmiə ,nʌt/ *n* a nut from an Australian tree (macadamia tree) widely grown in Hawaii which can be eaten

Ma-ca-o, **Macau** /mə'kaʊ/ a Portuguese PROVINCE in SE China which will be handed to China in 1999. It is a centre for TOURISM and gambling (GAMBLE¹ (1)); main city Macao; population 448,000 (1989)

mac-a-ro-ni /,mækə'rəʊni/ *n* [U] Italian PASTA (=food made from flour and water) in the shape of small pieces of thin pipe, cooked in boiling water —compare SPAGHETTI, TAGLIATELLE, VERMICELLI

macaroni cheese /,..... 'i/ BrE || **macaroni and cheese** /,..... 'i/ AmE — *n* [U] a dish made from cooked macaroni with a cheese SAUCE

mac-a-roon /,mækə'ruːn/ *n* a small flat cake made mainly of sugar, eggs, and crushed ALMONDS or COCONUT

Mac-Ar-thur /mə'kɑːθəʔ/ -ɑːr/, **Douglas** (1880–1964) an American GENERAL (=military leader) during the Second World War who was in charge of the Allied forces in the PACIFIC area and who organized the US forces in Japan after the war ended. He was the leader of the United Nations forces in Korea in 1950.

ma-caw /mə'kɔː/ *n* a large long-tailed Central and South American bird of the brightly-coloured PARROT family

Mac-beth /mæk'beθ, mæk-/ 1 a king of Scotland (1040–57), who killed the previous king Duncan I in battle and was

himself later killed by Duncan's son, Malcolm 2 a play by William Shakespeare which gives an account of Macbeth's life. Macbeth is told by three witches (WITCH) that he will become king. To do so, he murders the present king Duncan, who is his guest. Although he feels very guilty about this, he kills several other people to keep his power. He is finally killed by Macduff. Actors believe it is unlucky to say the name *Macbeth*, so they often call it *The Scottish Play*. —see colour picture on page 1146

Macbeth, Lady the character of the wife of Macbeth in the play by William Shakespeare. She encourages her husband to kill Duncan and is a stronger, more evil person than Macbeth himself. After the murder, she feels as if she will never be able to clean the blood off her hands, and she walks in her sleep, rubbing her hands together as if washing them.

Mc-Calls /mə'kɔːlz/ a US magazine with articles of interest mostly to married women

Mc-Car-thy /mə'kɑːθi/ -ɑːr-, **John** (19??–) an English JOURNALIST who was kidnapped (KIDNAP) in 1986 and held as a HOSTAGE in the Middle East until he was released in 1991.

McCarthy, Joseph (1909–57) an American SENATOR (=politician of high rank) who achieved importance and power in the 1950s by claiming that important public figures were Communists

Mc-Car-thy-is-m /mə'kɑːθi-ɪzəm/ -ɑːr/ *n* [U] (in the US in the 1950s) the hunting down and removal from public employment of all those believed to be Communists, which was carried out under Senator Joseph McCarthy. Many of the people accused were BLACKLISTED (=not allowed to work) or imprisoned. People were encouraged to give the names of their friends and people they worked with to help themselves. Today most Americans are embarrassed about this period in their history, and people who refused to give information about themselves or others are admired. McCarthyism is sometimes used to mean any accusation of disloyalty to the country that is made without proof. —see also BLACKLIST, COMMUNIST, HUAC

Mc-Cart-ney /mə'kɑːtni/ -ɑːr-, **Paul** (1942–) an English popular music singer and GUITAR player, and one of the members of the Beatles. He wrote most of their songs with John Lennon. He later formed a new group, Wings, and continues to write songs and perform. —see also BEATLES

Mc-Clel-lan /mə'klelən/, **George** (1826–85) a GENERAL (=military leader) in the American Civil War

Mc-Coy /mə'kɔɪ/ infml the real McCoy the real or original article or thing, esp. something of high quality: This whisky is the real McCoy.

Mc-Crae /mə'kreɪ/, **John** (1872–1918) a Canadian poet who wrote the famous war poem *In Flanders Fields*

Mc-Cul-lers /mə'kʌləz/ -lərz/, **Carson** (1917–67) an American writer whose best known works include the NOVEL *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* and a collection of short stories called *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*. She often wrote about loneliness and many of her characters are people who do not fit into ordinary society.

Mac-don-ald /mæk'dɒnəld/ -'dɑː-, **Flora** (1722–90) a Scottish woman who helped Prince Charles Edward Stuart to escape from Scotland after the Battle of Culloden (1746)

Macdonald, Ram-say /'ræmzi/ (1866–1937) a British political leader who became the first Labour PRIME MINISTER in 1924. He later led a COALITION (=a government formed from members of different political parties) during the Depression (DEPRESSION (2)) of the 1930s.

Macdonald, Ross (1915–) an American writer of DETECTIVE stories, whose real name is Kenneth Millar. The main character in his books is Lew Archer, a strong but sympathetic private detective.

Mc-Don-ald's /mæk'dɒnəldz/ -'dɑː- (one of) a large group of American-owned restaurants in the USA, Europe, and many other countries, which sell HAMBURGERS and other FAST FOOD. In Britain and the US, these restaurants are esp. popular with young people and children. McDonalds is thought to be a typical part of the American way of life.

McDou-gall's /mæk'duːgəlz/ *n* tdmk a range of different types of flour made by RHM Foods Ltd

Mac-duff /mæk'dʌf/ 1 a character in Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, who kills Macbeth at the end of the play 2 lead on, Macduff a slightly changed phrase from *Macbeth*,

Mc-Kin-ley /mə'kɪnli/, **William** (1843-1901) the 25th

president of the US (1897–1901) who raised IMPORT and EXPORT taxes to the highest levels ever in the US and was shot and killed in Buffalo, New York State

mack-in-tosh /'mækɪntɒʃ||-tɔːʃ/ also **mac**, **mack** *infml*— *n* *esp. BrE* a coat made to keep out the rain

Mackintosh, Charles Ren-nie /tʃɑːlz 'reni||tʃɑːrlz-/ (1868–1928) a Scottish ARCHITECT, artist, and furniture DESIGNER. His work is considered to be among the best examples of the ART NOUVEAU style.

Ma-claine /mə'kleɪn/, **Shir-ley** /'ʃɜːli||'ʃɜːr-/ (1934–) an American actress who wrote a book called *Dancing in the Light*

Mac-Laine /mə'kleɪn/, **Shir-ley** /'ʃɜːli||'ʃɜːr-/ (1934–) an American film actress who has also written books telling of her unusual SPIRITUAL experiences and memories of former lives

Mc-Lar-en /mə'klærən/ a company which makes racing cars

Mac-lean /mə'kleɪn/, **Al-is-tair** /'ælɪsteəʳ/ (1922–87) a Scottish writer of adventure stories many of which have been made into films, e.g. *The Guns of Navarone* and *Where Eagles Dare*

Maclean, Don-ald /'dɒnəld||'dɑː-/ (1913–83) a British Foreign Office official who worked for the USSR as a SPY and escaped to the Soviet Union in 1951 with another British spy, Guy Burgess. Their names, "Burgess and Maclean", are usually remembered together. —see also ANTHONY BLUNT, GUY BURGESS, KIM PHILBY

Mc-Lu-han /mə'kluxən/, **Marshall** (1911–80) a Canadian with great knowledge of the MEDIA (=newspapers, radio, television, etc.) who said "the medium is the message", meaning that the way in which people receive information has more influence on what they think than the information itself

Mc-Mahon /mæk'maːn/, **Ed** (1923–) the assistant to Johnny Carson on *The Tonight Show*, an American television programme

Mac-mil-lan /mæk'mɪlən/, **Harold** (1894–1986) a British PRIME MINISTER and leader of the Conservative Party who worked to improve East-West relations and tried unsuccessfully to gain Britain's entry into the European Community. His government was damaged by the Profumo Scandal in 1963 and he gave up work in the same year because of ill health. In 1984, he became the Earl of Stockton. He made two expressions popular in Britain, when he told the British people "You've never had it so good" and when he talked about "the winds of change" blowing through Africa. In the newspapers, he was often called **Supernac**.

Mc-Na-ma-ra /,mæk'nə'ɪnɑːrə||'mæk'nə,mærə/, **Robert Strange** /'rɒbət streɪndʒ||'rɑːbət-/ (1916–) an American Secretary of Defence, who resigned (RESIGN) because of doubts about the Vietnam War

Mc-Naugh-ten Rules, McNaghten Rules /mæk'nɔːtn ,ruːlz/ *n* [the+P] rules in English law which say that a person can PLEAD INSANITY (=use madness as a legal defence) after committing (COMMIT) a crime if it can be proved they did not know what they were doing or did not know that it was a crime (from the case against McNaghten in 1843)

Mac-Neil/Leh-rer Re-port /mæk,nɪl 'leərə rɪ,pɔːt||-rər rɪ,pɔːrt/ [the] a high quality American television news programme shown on PUBLIC TELEVISION

Mc-Pher-son /mæk'fɜːsən||-zɜːr/, **Ai-mee Sem-ple** /'eɪmi 'sempəl/ (1890–1944) an American religious leader, very popular in the 1920s. She went to court for deceiving people into giving her money. She was found not guilty but there followed more legal problems with other business affairs. She may have died from accidentally taking too many sleeping PILLS.

Mc-Queen /mə'kwɪzn/, **Steve** /stɪv/ (1930–80) an American actor and film star who was esp. popular in the 1960s and 1970s and was known for doing his own STUNTS. His films

Shirley MacLaine



include *The Great Escape*, *Papillon*, and *The Hunter*.

ma-cra-mé /mə'kraːmi||,mæk'rə'meɪ/ *n* [U] the art or practice of knotting string together in decorative patterns

mac-ro-bi-ot-ic /,mæk'rəʊbaɪ'ɒtɪk||-'ɑːtɪk/ *adj* of a way of thinking which puts value on living according to nature, esp. by eating chiefly whole grains and vegetables: *a macrobiotic cookbook* —see also HEALTH FOOD

mac-ro-cos-m /'mæk'rəʊkɒzəm||-kɑː-/ *n* 1 [the] the world as a whole; universe 2 [C] any large system containing smaller systems —compare MICROCOSM

mac-ro-ec-o-nom-ics /,mæk'rəʊekə'nɒmɪks, -ɪkə-||-'nɑː-/ *n* [S] the study of large economic systems such as those of a country —compare MICROECONOMICS **macroeconomic** *adj*

Mac the Knife /,ɪ·'·'·/ a character in Bertolt Brecht's *Threepenny Opera*

Mc-Vit-ie's /mæk'vɪtɪz/ *n* *tdmk* a company which makes many different types of BISCUITS

Macy's /'meɪsɪz/ one of a chain of large American shops that sell many different goods. The biggest Macy's is in New York City and most of the rest of the stores are in the eastern states. Each year Macy's holds a public procession on Thanksgiving Day.

mad /mæd/ *adj* -dd- 1 [(with)] *esp. BrE* ill in the mind; INSANE: *He went mad and had to be put into a mental hospital.* | *She was almost mad with grief/jealousy.* | (fig.) *Stop that noise; it's driving me mad!* (=annoying me very much) —opposite **sane** 2 *esp. BrE* very foolish: *You're mad to drive so fast.* | *What a mad idea!* | *You paid £50 for that hat? You must be stark raving mad!* 3 [F+about, on] *infml* filled with strong feeling, interest, or admiration: *They're mad about football.* 4 [F (with, at)] *infml, esp. AmE* angry: *The director got mad at me because I forgot my lines.* | *It made me hopping mad.* (=very angry) 5 [A] wild; uncontrolled: *Everyone made a mad dash/rush for the door.* 6 *like mad infml* very hard, fast, loud, etc.: *They ran like mad to catch the moving bus.* 7 (as) *mad as a hatter/as a March hare infml* completely mad —see also MAD HATTER, MARCH HARE 8 *mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun* quote a phrase from a song by Noël Coward which made fun of the way British people refused to take notice of local customs in COLONIAL times 9 *mad keen BrE infml* extremely keen: *The children are mad keen to go to the zoo.* —see also MADLY; see also **mad dogs and Englishmen**...(ENGLISHMAN)

Mad-a-gas-car /,mædə'gæskəʳ/ an island country in the Indian Ocean off the SE coast of Africa; capital Antananarivo; population 11,603,000 (1989) —**can** *n, adj*

mad-am /'mædəm/ *n* 1 (often *cap.*) (a respectful way of addressing a woman, esp. a customer in a shop): *Are you being served, Madam?* —compare MISS³, SIR 2 *derog, esp. BrE* a (young) female who likes to give orders: *She's a little madam — don't let her order you around.* 3 a woman who is in charge of a house of PROSTITUTES (=women who earn money by having sex), taking from them some of their payment

Madam *n* **Mesdames** /'meɪdəm||meɪ'daːm/ 1 (a word of address used at the beginning of a business letter to a woman, after the word **Dear**): *Dear Madam, ...* —compare SIR 2 (a word for addressing a woman official, followed by the name of her official position): *Madam President, may I ask a question?*

Ma-dame /'mædəm, mə'daːm||mə'dæm/ *n* **Mesdames** (used as a title for a French-speaking woman, esp. a married woman) Mrs: *Madame Mitterrand*

Mad-ame But-ter-fly /,mædəm 'bʌtəflaɪ||-tər-/ 1 an OPERA by Giacomo Puccini (1904), set in Japan 2 the Japanese woman that the opera is about, who is left by her husband, a US naval officer

Madame Tus-saud's /,mædəm tu'sɔːdz||,mædəm tu'səʊz, mə'dæm-/ a MUSEUM in London which contains WAX figures of famous people, both living and dead. New models are made regularly as people become famous and old models are melted down. —see colour map on page 817

mad-cap /'mædkæp/ *adj* [A] *infml* wild and thoughtless; RECKLESS: *a madcap scheme to go mountain climbing in the middle of winter*

mad cow dis-ease /,ɪ·'·'·/ *n* [U] a deadly illness of the brain found esp. in cows. It is believed to be caused by

eating food made from the bones and organs of other diseased animals, esp. sheep. The scientific name is **bovine spongiform encephalitis** or **BSE**. When the disease was found in cows in Britain in the late 1980s, many people were afraid to eat BEEF because it is not known whether the disease can be passed to humans.

MADD /mæd/ *abbrev. for:* Mothers Against Drunk Driving; an American organization, started by a woman whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver, that has done much to bring people's attention to the problem and encourage state and FEDERAL governments to make stronger laws against it

mad-den /'mædn/ *v* [T often pass.] to make extremely angry or annoyed; drive mad

mad-den-ing /'mædnɪŋ/ *adj* **1** causing much pain or worry: *maddening pain* **2** *infml* extremely annoying: *maddening delays* — *~ly adv*

mad-der /'mædə/ *n* [U] **1** a plant from whose roots a red colouring matter (DYE) is obtained **2** the red colouring matter obtained from this plant

made¹ /meɪd/ *past tense & participle of MAKE:* *Paper is made from wood.* | *made in England*

made² *adj* [F] **1** [+from, of, UP of] formed: *Clouds are made of water/made up of little drops of water.* **2** [+for] completely suited to: *Nick and Alison are made for each other.* **3** *infml* sure of success: *If you get that job you'll be made for life.* | *Now he's married a rich wife he's really got it made.*

▷ **USAGE** **Made of** and **made from** have very similar meanings, but often we use **made from** when the original material has been completely changed: *Paper is made from wood.* | *some jam made from the fruit in our garden* | *Bread is made from flour and water.* We use **made of** when the original materials can still be recognized: *The table is made of wood.* | *a bag made of leather.* ◀

Ma-dei-ra¹ /mə'diərə/ (the largest of) a group of Portuguese islands in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Morocco; capital Funchal. It attracts many tourists and is famous for its wine.

Madeira² *n* [U] a strong sweet wine originally produced in the island of Madeira

Madeira cake /'mædə'keɪ/ *n* [U] *BrE* a plain rather solid yellow SPONGE CAKE

Mad-e-moi-selle /,mædəmwə'zel/ *n* **Mesdemoiselles** /,meɪdəmwə'zel/ (used as a title for an unmarried French-speaking woman, esp. a young woman) **MISS:** *Mademoiselle Dubois*

made-to-measure /'meɪdə'tuːməʒ/ *adj* (esp. of clothes) specially made to someone's measurements

made-up /'meɪdʌp/ *adj* **1** wearing MAKE-UP on the face: *She was heavily made-up.* **2** not true; invented: *a made-up story* — see also **MAKE UP** (1) **3** *BrE* (of a road) covered with TARMAC

Mad Hat-ter /'mæd'hætə/ [the] a character in Lewis Carroll's book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Alice goes to the Mad Hatter's tea party where nobody eats or drinks anything, the Mad Hatter and the MARCH HARE talk nonsense and the DORMOUSE keeps falling asleep. — see also ALICE IN WONDERLAND and see colour picture on page 619

mad-house /'mædhaʊs/ *n* **-houses** /,haʊzɪz/ **1** [*usu. sing.*] *infml* a place where there is a noisy and/or disorderly crowd of people: *The store is an absolute madhouse during the pre-Christmas period.* **2** *old use* a MENTAL HOSPITAL

Mad-i-son /'mædɪsən/, **James** (1751–1836) the fourth president of the US (1809–17), famous for helping to write the Constitution.

Madison Av-en-ue /'mædɪsən'ævənuː/ a street in New York City in the US famous as the centre of the advertising industry — see colour map on page 1376

▷ **CULTURAL NOTE** Madison Avenue can be used to mean advertising. People often accuse Madison Avenue of attitudes and practices such as treating people, things, and ideas in a very light way, when they mean that advertising does this. ◀

Madison Square Gar-den /'mædɪsən'skweɪə/ a place in New York City, USA, where concerts or sports events, esp. BOXING matches, are held which very large crowds of people attend — see colour map on page 1376

Madison Square Park /'mædɪsən'skweɪə/ a small park in New York City, bordered by Madison Avenue, Broadway, and 23rd Street — see colour map on page 1376

mad-ly /'mædli/ *adv* **1** in a wild way as if mad: *People were rushing madly in all directions.* **2** *infml* very (much): *He's madly in love with her.*

Mad Mag-a-zine /'mæd'ægəzɪn/ a monthly humorous magazine, read mostly by young people, which specializes in SATIRE, and parodies (PARODY¹ (1)), of current affairs, films, personalities, etc.

mad-man /'mædmən/ **mad-wom-an** /-wʊmən/ *fem.* — *n* **-men** /mən/ a person who is mad: *He drives like a mad-man: I'm sure he'll have an accident one day.*

mad mon-ey /'mædməni/ *n* [U] *AmE infml* money kept aside for something unexpected or special: *I keep a little mad money in the zippered pocket of my purse.*

mad-ness /'mædnəs/ *n* [U] **1** the state of being mad **2** very foolish behaviour: *It would be sheer madness to attempt to cross the desert on your own.* **3** *that way mad-ness lies* quote a phrase from Shakespeare's play *King Lear*, used when saying that a course of action would lead to a lot of difficulties or problems — see also **method in one's madness** (METHOD)

Ma-don-na¹ /mə'dɒnə||mə'dɑː-/ *n* **1** [the] (in the Christian religion) Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ **2** [C] a picture or figure of Mary

Madonna² (1958–) a very successful American popular music singer known for her unusual, often extreme, styles in clothes and appearance and the sometimes sexual nature of her performances and behaviour. Her well known songs include *Like a Virgin*. — see colour picture on page 554

Ma-dras /mə'drɑːs, -dræs/ a city and port in SE India, the capital of Tamil Nadu state

Ma-drid /mə'drɪd/ the capital city of Spain, in the centre of the country

mad-ri-gal /'mædrɪgəl/ *n* a song for several singers without instruments

mael-strom /'meɪlstrəm/ *n* *esp. lit* **1** a stretch of water moving with a strong circular movement, which can suck objects down; violent WHIRLPOOL **2** [*usu. sing.*] a situation in which the course of events seems uncontrollable and may lead to destruction: *She got sucked into the maelstrom of political controversy.*

mae-nad /'miːnæd/ *n* **1** a female follower or priestess of the god of wine in ancient Greece or Rome **2** *lit* an unnaturally excited or upset woman

maes-tro /'maɪstrəʊ/ *n* **-tros or -tri** /tri:/ (*often cap.*) a great or famous musician, esp. a CONDUCTOR (=one who directs the playing of music)

Maestro *n* *tdmk* a type of car made by the Rover company

Mae West /'meɪ'west/ *n* a garment worn to support a person in water used esp. by British airforce pilots in the Second World War (named after the film star Mae West, because the shape of the life jacket reminded people of her breasts, which were famous)

Maf-e-king /'mæfɪkɪŋ/ a town in South Africa, now called **Mafikeng**, which British soldiers defended successfully for 217 days while under attack by the Boers in the Boer War

MAFF /mæf/ *abbrev. for:* MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

maf-i-a /'mæfɪə||'mæfɪə/ *n* [S+*sing./pl. v*] **1** [the] (*often cap.*) also **the Mob** an organization of criminals who control many ILLEGAL activities by threats of violence, esp. the one existing for many years in Sicily and more recently in the US. The Mafia has been the subject of many books and films e.g. *The Godfather*. **2** *derog* an influential group who support each other without any concern for people outside the group: *She claimed that the medical mafia had protected the doctor against complaints of negligence.*

maf-i-o-so /mæfɪ'əʊsəʊ||mæfɪ-/ *n* (*often cap.*) a member of the mafia

mag /mæg/ *n* *infml* a magazine

mag-a-zine /'mægəzɪn||'mægəzɪn/ *n* **1** a sort of book with a paper cover and usu. large pages, which contains written articles, photographs, and advertisements, usu. on a special subject or for a certain group of people, and

which is printed and sold every week or month: *a glossy fashion magazine* | *a photography/news/cricket magazine* | *a popular women's magazine* — compare JOURNAL **2** the part of a gun in which bullets are placed before firing — see picture at GUN **3** the place where the roll of film is kept away from the light in a camera or PROJECTOR (=an apparatus for showing pictures) **4** a storehouse or room for arms, explosives, bullets, etc.

Ma-gel-lan /mə'gelən, -'dʒe-||-'dʒe-/ , **Fer-di-nand** /'fɜːdɪnænd||'fɜːr-/ (about 1480–1521) a Portuguese sailor who was the first person to go round the world. His journey proved that the Earth was round.

ma-gen-ta /mə'dʒentə/ *adj* having a dark purplish red colour — **magenta** *n* [U]

mag-got /'mægət/ *n* a small wormlike creature which is the young of a fly or certain other insects, found on flesh and food where flies have laid their eggs

Mag-gie /'mægi/ *abbrev.* for the name “Margaret”, often used when speaking or writing about Margaret Thatcher: *Maggie quits! Margaret Thatcher has announced her resignation as leader of the Conservative Party.*

Ma-ghreb /'mɑːgreb/ [*the*] the area of NW Africa which includes the countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya where the people are Arab and Berber

Ma-gi /'meɪdʒaɪ/ also **Three Wise Men, Three Kings**— [*the* + P] according to the Bible, the three wise men who came from the East guided by a star and brought gifts of gold, FRANKINCENSE and MYRRH for the baby Jesus — see also NATIVITY and see picture on page 223

ma-gic¹ /'mædʒɪk/ *n* [U] **1** the use of secret forces to control events and people, usu. by calling on spirits, saying special words, performing special ceremonies, etc.: *to practise/work magic* — see also BLACK MAGIC, WHITE MAGIC

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Very few people in Western countries believe in magic now. It is generally considered to be a form of SUPERSTITION. However, many people enjoy watching performers who perform magic tricks for entertainment, e.g. making things appear or disappear. ◀

2 the art employed by an entertainer (CONJURER) who produces unexpected objects and results by tricks **3** a strange or wonderful influence, power, or quality: *And now, by the magic of satellite technology, we can take you live to Sydney, Australia.* | *the magic of the theatre* **4** *like magic/as if by magic* so well or suddenly as seems unreasonable or impossible to explain — see also MAGICIAN

magic² *adj* **1** [A] caused by or used in magic: *a magic trick* | (fig.) *She has a magic touch with the baby; he never cries when she's holding him.* **2** [F] *BrE sl* very good; wonderful: *Their latest record is really magic.*

ma-gic-al /'mædʒɪkəl/ *adj* *apprec* of strange power, mystery, or charm: *a magical evening beneath the bright stars* — *~ly* /kli/ *adv*

magic car-pet /,ɪ.. 'i.. / *n* a flying CARPET which can carry people through the air from place to place (from a story in the Arabian Nights)

Magic Cir-cle /,ɪ.. 'i.. / [*the*] the British association which people who practise magic as entertainment can join if they are very skilful. The secrets known by magicians must not be told to people who are not members. In 1991 women were allowed to join for the first time.

magic eye /,ɪ.. 'i.. / *n infml* for PHOTOELECTRIC CELL

ma-gi-cian /mə'dʒɪʃən/ *n* **1** (in stories) a person who can make strange things happen by magic **2** an entertainer who performs magic tricks, e.g. making things appear or disappear; a CONJURER.

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The STEREOTYPE of a magician is a man wearing evening clothes and a black CLOAK. He waves a magic WAND and says magic words; e.g. *abracadabra*, and performs tricks such as sawing (SAW) a woman in half and producing a white rabbit out of a TOP HAT. ◀

Magic King-dom /,ɪ.. 'i.. / also **Magic Kingdom park** /,ɪ.. 'i.. / — [*the*] *tdmk* a name sometimes used instead of DISNEYLAND or DISNEY WORLD: “Welcome to the Magic Kingdom!” said a voice on the loudspeaker.

magic lan-tern /,ɪ.. 'i.. / *n* an apparatus for throwing images of pictures from glass plates onto a white sheet; early type of PROJECTOR

magic mush-room /,ɪ.. 'i.. / *n* a type of MUSHROOM which causes HALLUCINATIONS when eaten. Some people look for

and eat these deliberately, because of their drug-like effects

magic wand /,ɪ.. 'i.. / *n* a small stick used by a magician in doing magic tricks: (fig.) *The government can't just wave a magic wand and make this problem go away.*

Ma-gi-not Line /'mæʒɪnəʊ ,laɪn/ [*the*] a line of FORTS built before the Second World War to defend the E border of France. It was not successful in preventing the advance of the German army, which avoided it by going through part of Belgium to the N of the Line.

ma-gis-te-ri-al /,mædʒɪ'stɪəriəl/ *adj fml* **1** typical of someone who has complete control over a situation, great knowledge of a subject, etc.; *AUTHORITATIVE: His magisterial study of Roman law is likely to be the standard book on the subject for many years.* | *a magisterial manner* **2** [A] of or done by a magistrate — *~ly* *adv*

ma-gis-tra-cy /'mædʒɪ'strəsi/ *n* **1** [(*the*) U] the office of magistrate **2** [*the*+*sing.*|*pl.* v] magistrates considered as a group

ma-gis-trate /'mædʒɪ'streɪt, -strɪt/ *n* an official who judges cases in the lowest courts of law: *The boy came up/appeared before the magistrate on a charge of theft.* — see also *extra information on page 738*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In England and Wales, a magistrate is also called a JUSTICE OF THE PEACE or JP. Magistrates do not have a special education or training in law and are not paid for their work which is part-time and VOLUNTARY. They are advised by a clerk on matters of law, but decide the cases themselves. It is considered a very responsible position in society. ◀

Magistrates' Court /'... ,ɪ.. / *n* the lowest court in England and Wales where magistrates hear and decide on less serious criminal cases e.g. stealing, or decide if there is enough EVIDENCE for a more serious criminal case to go to a higher court. Over 90% of all criminal cases are heard in Magistrates' Courts, which are open to members of the public. — see also *extra information on page 738*

mag-lev /'mæglev/ *n* a train in Birmingham, England which takes passengers from the international airport to National Exhibition Centre. The name comes from the technical phrase “magnetic levitation”.

mag-ma /'mægmə/ *n* [U] hot melted rock found below the solid surface of the earth

Mag-na Car-ta /,mægnə 'kɑːtə||-'kɑːr-/ [*the*] a famous document in British history agreed in 1215 by King John of England at Runnymede, which set limits on royal powers. Later, esp. in the 17th century, it was seen as a statement of basic CIVIL RIGHTS. Four copies of the original still exist.

magna cum lau-de /,mægnə kʌm 'lɔːdi, -kʌm 'laʊdeɪ||-kʌm 'laʊdi/ *n Lat* the second of the three levels of high HONOURS (2) given to American university or college students when they finish their studies: *He graduated magna cum laude.* — see also CUM LAUDE, SUMMA CUM LAUDE, see DEGREE³ (CULTURAL NOTE 2)

mag-nan-i-mous /mæg'nænɪməs/ *adj fml apprec* showing very generous qualities towards others, beyond what is usual or necessary: *It was very magnanimous of you to overlook his rude behaviour.* — *~ly* *adv* — **mity** /,mægnə-'nɪmɪti/ *n* [U]

mag-nate /'mægneɪt, -nɪt/ *n* sometimes *derog* a wealthy and powerful man, esp. in business or industry: *an oil/ship-ping/media magnate*

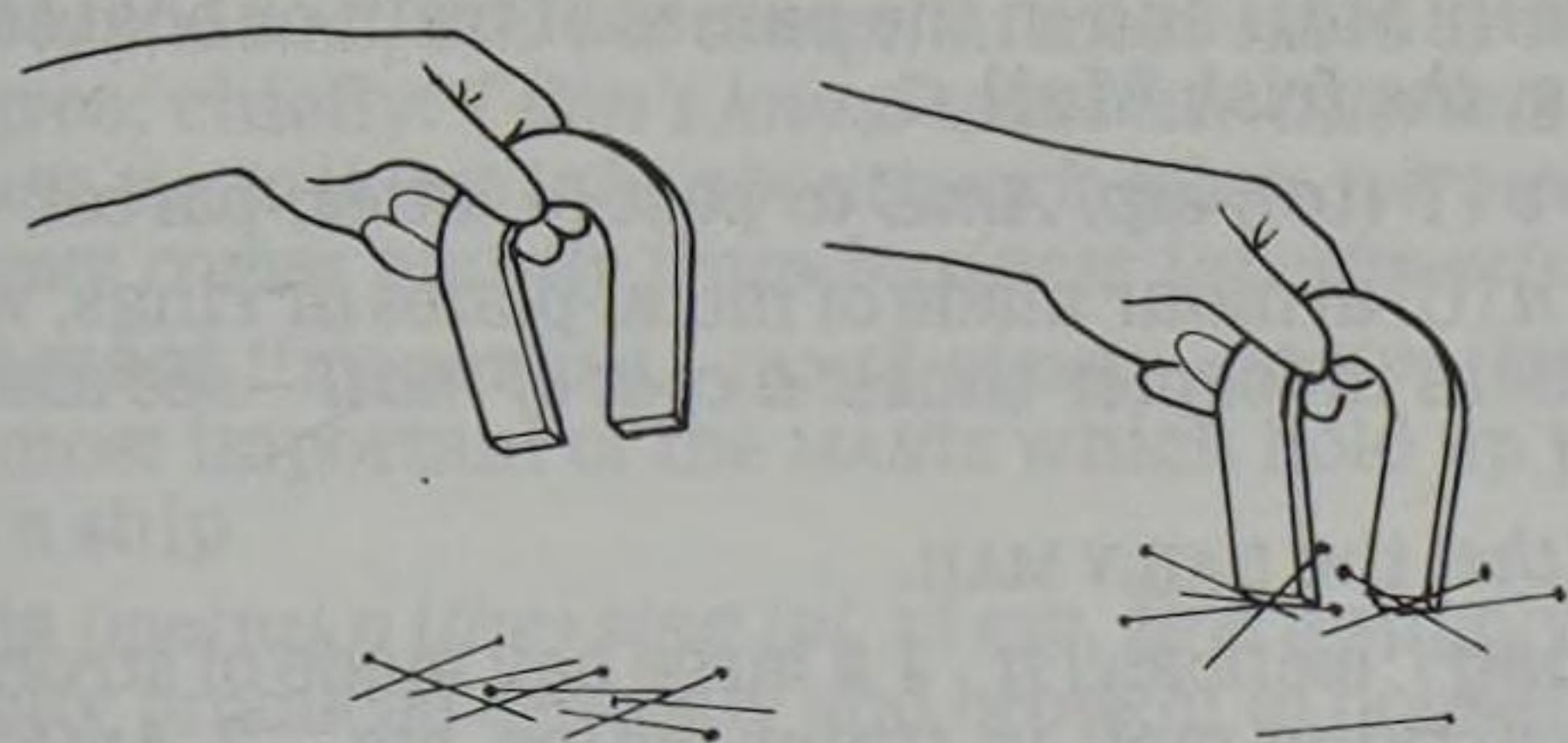
mag-ne-sia /mæg'niːʃə, -ʒə/ *n* [U] a light white powder used as a stomach medicine

mag-ne-si-um /mæg'niːzɪəm/ *n* [U] a common silver-white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), burns with a bright white light, and is used in making FIREWORKS and mixtures of metals

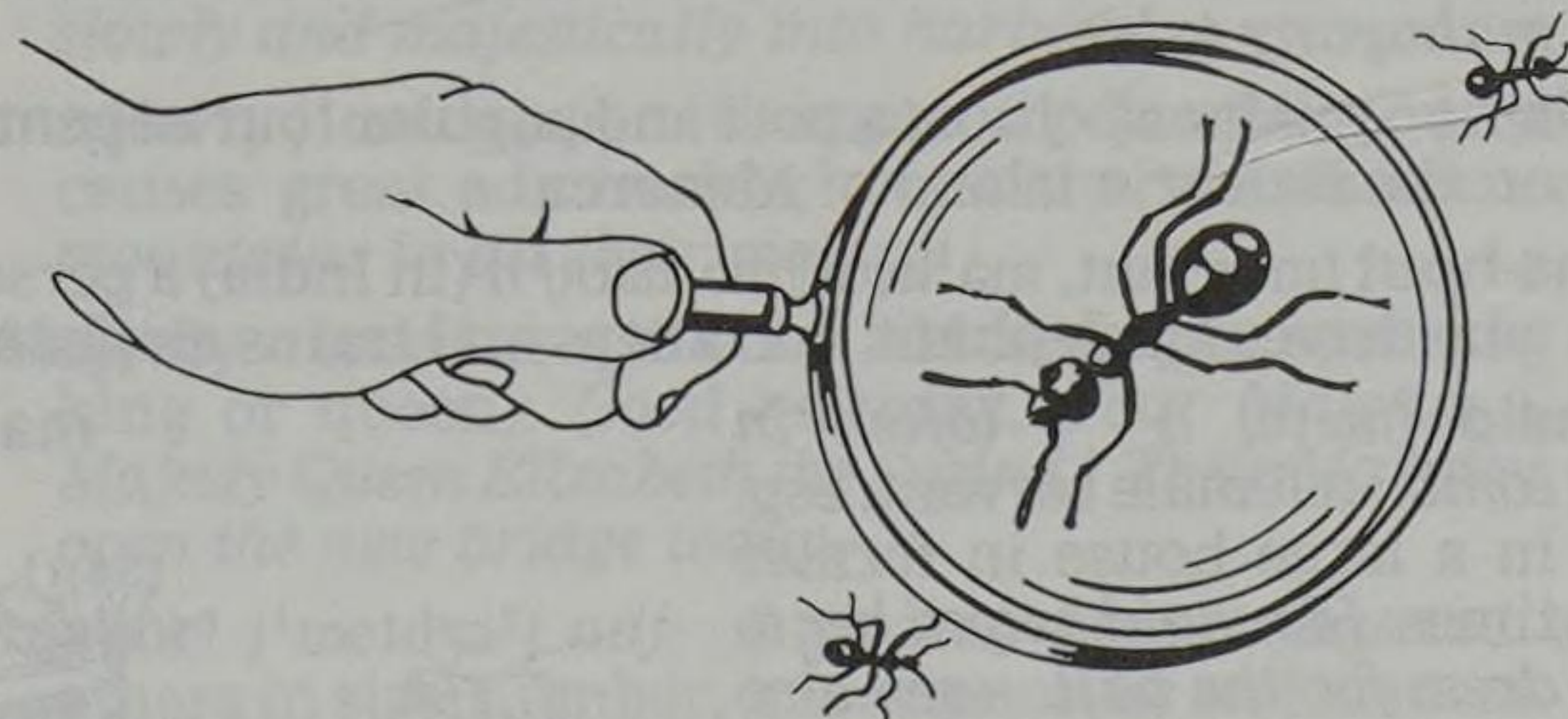
mag-net /'mægnɪt/ *n* **1** a piece of iron or steel which can make other metal objects come towards it either naturally or because of an electric current being passed through it **2** [(*for*, *to*)] a person or thing that attracts people: *Buckingham Palace is a great magnet for tourists.*

mag-net-ic /mæg'netɪk/ *adj* **1** having the qualities of a magnet: *The iron has lost its magnetic force.* | (fig.) *her magnetic personality* **2** of or using MAGNETISM, esp. for the purpose of recording and storing information for use in a computer system: *a magnetic disk* | *magnetic storage media* — compare OPTICAL (2) — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

magnet



magnify



magnetic field /ˌmæɡˈnetɪk fiːld/ *n* the space in which a magnetic force is effective round an object which has magnetic power: *the Earth's magnetic field*

magnetic head /ˌmæɡˈnetɪk heɪd/ *n* a HEAD¹ (20)

magnetic me-di-a /ˌmæɡˈnetɪk miːdiə/ [U] any of the magnetically covered plastics such as DISKS or MAGNETIC TAPE used for storing computer information: *The document was sent on magnetic media.*

magnetic north /ˌmæɡˈnetɪk noːθ/ *n* [U] the direction towards the north in the Earth's magnetic field as shown by the needle of a COMPASS

magnetic pole /ˌmæɡˈnetɪk poʊl/ *n* either of two points, not firmly fixed but near the North Pole and the South Pole of the Earth, towards which the COMPASS needle points from any direction

magnetic storm /ˌmæɡˈnetɪk stɔːm/ *n* a sudden change in the earth's magnetic field, caused by the sun, which can change radio waves and make it difficult to receive broadcasts

magnetic tape /ˌmæɡˈnetɪk teɪp/ also **mag tape** *infml*— *n* a TAPE on which sound or other information can be recorded

mag-net-is-m /ˌmæɡˈnetɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** (the science dealing with) the qualities of MAGNETS **2** strong personal charm; the ability to attract: *He persuaded them to join him by the sheer magnetism of his personality.*

mag-net-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˌmæɡˈnetɪzaɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to make into a magnet: *The iron was magnetized by passing electricity through wire wound round it.* **2** to have a powerful attraction or influence on: *Her speech magnetized the crowd.*

mag-ne-to /mæɡˈnɪtəʊ/ *n* **-tos** a piece of equipment containing one or more magnets used for producing electricity, esp. for igniting (IGNITE) the petrol in the engine of a car, motorcycle, etc. —compare DYNAMO, GENERATOR

mag-ne-to-sphere /mæɡˈnɪtəʊsfɪə/ *n* the part of the ATMOSPHERE of the earth or other PLANET in which PARTICLES are influenced by the planet's MAGNETIC FIELD

magnet school /ˈmæɡˌnet skul/ *n* *AmE* a SECONDARY school which specializes in a particular subject, such as science or the arts, and draws its students from a wide area

Mag-nif-i-cat /mæɡˈnɪfɪkæt/ *n* a song praising God which is part of some Christian church services. It was originally spoken by the Virgin Mary, according to the Bible.

mag-ni-fi-ca-tion /ˌmæɡˈnɪfɪkəʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of magnifying **2** [C] the power of magnifying to a stated number of times bigger than in reality: *This microscope has a magnification of eight.* (=it makes things look eight times larger)

mag-nif-i-cent /mæɡˈnɪfɪsənt/ *adj* wonderfully fine, grand, generous, etc.: *The royal wedding was a magnificent occasion.* | *What a magnificent day!* (=a day of very fine weather) | *a magnificent gift* — *~ly adv* — **-cence** *n* [U]

Magnificent Men in their Fly-ing Ma-chines /ˌmæɡˈnɪfɪsənt men ɪn ðeɪr flaɪɪŋ məˈʃiːns/ *n* **1** **Those** the title of an old popular song, now often used when talking about the pilots of early aircraft

mag-ni-fy /ˌmæɡˈnɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] **1** to make (something) appear larger than it really is: *A microscope will magnify these germs, so that you can actually see them.* | (fig.) *The importance of his remark has been magnified out of all proportion.* **2** *old use or bibl* to praise (God) highly — **fier** *n*

magnifying glass /ˌmæɡˈnɪfaɪɪŋ glɑːs/ *n* a piece of glass (LENS), usu. curved on one or both sides, with a frame and handle, which magnifies things that are seen through it

mag-ni-tude /ˌmæɡˈnɪtjuːd/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* greatness of size or importance: *I hadn't realized the magnitude of the problem.* **2** [C] *tech* the degree of brightness of a star: *a star of the second magnitude*

mag-no-li-a /mæɡˈnəʊliə/ *n* **1** [C] a tree with large sweet-smelling flowers **2** [U] a very pale pinkish-white colour

Mag-nox re-ac-tor /ˌmæɡnɒks riːæktə/ *n* *tdmk* an old type of British NUCLEAR REACTOR

mag-num /ˌmæɡnəm/ *n* (a large bottle containing) a measure of about 1.5 litres, esp. for wine

magnum o-pus /ˌmæɡˈnʊm ɒːpəs/ also **opus magnum**— *n fml* a great book or work of art considered the most important piece of work of the person who produced it; MASTERPIECE

Mag-nus-son /ˌmæɡnəsən/, **Mag-nus** /ˌmæɡnəs/ (1929–) an Icelandic television presenter who asks the questions on the well-known British television QUIZ programme MASTERMIND. He is known esp. for saying "I've started so I'll finish."

mag-pie /ˌmæɡpaɪ/ *n* a noisy bird with black and white feathers, which often picks up and takes to its nest small bright objects

Ma-gritte /mæˈɡrɪt/, **Re-né** /ˌreneɪˈrəneɪ/ (1898–1967) a Belgian SURREALIST painter known for the paradoxes (PARADOX) in his pictures, which often involved apples, hats, and windows

mag tape /ˌmæɡ teɪp/ *n infml* MAGNETIC TAPE

Ma-guire Sev-en /məˈɡwaɪə ˈsevən/ *n* [the + P] seven people, four of whom were from the Irish Maguire family, who were sent to prison in Britain in 1976 for setting up an IRA bomb factory. They were freed in 1991 after it was shown that scientific tests used to prove them guilty did not do so. Along with other cases, this case has raised questions in Britain about police questioning of people they have caught for a crime, and about the way mistakes in justice are put right —compare BIRMINGHAM SIX, GUILDFORD FOUR, TOTTENHAM THREE

Mag-yar /ˌmæɡjɑː/ *n* **1** [C] a member of the largest group of people in Hungary **2** [U] the language of the Magyars — **Magyar** *adj*

ma-ha-ra-ja, **-jah** /ˌməhəˈrɑːdʒə/ *n* (*often cap.*) a Hindu king or prince in India

ma-ha-ra-ni, **-nee** /ˌməhəˈrɑːni/ *n* (*often cap.*) the wife of a maharaja

Ma-ha-rish-i Ma-hesh Yo-gi /məhəˈrɪːʃi məˈheʃ ˈjəʊgi/ [*the*] an Indian religious leader who began the Spiritual Regeneration movement, which practises TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION. People remember him esp. in connection with The Beatles, who went to study under him.

ma-hat-ma /məˈhætmə/ *n* (*often cap.*) a wise and holy man in India: *Mahatma Gandhi*

Ma-ha-ya-na /ˌməhəˈjaːnə/ *adj* of the form of Buddhism practised in Tibet and China, based on developments of the original teachings of the Buddha starting in the first century —compare THERAVADA

Mah-di /ˈmɑːdi/ *n* (a religious leader who claims to be) the MESSIAH whose arrival is expected by Muslims, and who will make all people in the world follow Islam

Mah-fouz /məˈfuːz/, **Na-guib** /nɑːˈɡɪb/ (1911–) an important modern Egyptian writer who won the Nobel prize for literature in 1988

mah-jong, **-jongg** /ˌmɑːˈdʒɒŋ/ *n* [U] a Chinese game for four players, played with small painted pieces of wood or bone. It is thought of as a game played by old, esp. UPPER-CLASS, women.

Mah-ler /ˈmɑːlə/, **Gus-tav** /ˈɡʊstɑːv/ (1860–1911) an Austrian CONDUCTOR and writer of classical music, including nine symphonies (SYMPHONY) and the collections of songs *Das Lied von der Erde* (the song of the earth) and

Kindertotenlieder (songs of the deaths of children)

ma-hog-a-ny /mə'hɒɡəni||mə'hɑː-/ *n* [U] (the colour of) a dark reddish wood used for making fine furniture: *a mahogany table*

Ma-hon /mə'hɒn||-həʊn/ a port and popular tourist centre on the Balearic island of Menorca

ma-hout /mɑː'hʊt, mə'haut||mə'haut/ *n* (in India) a person who drives an elephant, and keeps and trains elephants

maid /meɪd/ *n* **1** (often in *comb.*) a female servant, esp. in a large house in former times: *Her maid helped her to dress for the ball.* —see also HOUSEMAID, MILKMAID, NURSE-MAID **2** *lit* or *old use* a girl or (young) woman who is not married —see also OLD MAID

maid-en ¹ /'meɪdn/ *n* **1** *lit* a girl who is not married **2** *tech* a horse which has not won a race **3** also **maiden o-ver** /,ɪ.. 'ɒ/- (in cricket) an OVER in which no runs are made

maiden ² *adj* [A] **1** first of its kind; earliest: *The aircraft makes its maiden flight tomorrow.* | *The new MP is making her maiden speech in Parliament tomorrow.* **2** (of a woman, esp. an older woman) unmarried: *a maiden aunt*

mai-den-hair /'meɪdnheə/ *n* [U] a kind of FERN

maid-en-head /'meɪdnhed/ *n* *old use* or *lit* **1** [U] the state of being a female VIRGIN; fact of not having had sexual experience **2** [C] a HYMEN

Maidenhead a town in SE England, in Berkshire, on the river Thames

maid-en-hood /'meɪdnhʊd/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* the condition or time of being a young unmarried girl

maid-en-ly /'meɪdnli/ *adj* *esp. lit* like or suitable to a young unmarried girl: *maidenly modesty*

maiden name /ɪ.. / *n* the family name a woman had before marriage

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain and the US it is usual for a woman to take her husband's family name after marriage, although some professional married women sometimes use their maiden names. In the US some women keep their maiden name and add their husband's family name to it using a HYPHEN: *Jane Smith-Robinson* ◀

Maid Mar-i-an /,meɪd 'mæriən/ **1** (in the stories of Robin Hood) the woman who lived with Robin Hood —see ROBIN HOOD and see colour picture on page 620 **2** the May Queen in MORRIS DANCES and May Day games

maid of hon-our /ɪ.. 'ɒ/ *n* **1** an unmarried lady who serves a queen or princess **2** the chief BRIDESMAID at a wedding **3** *BrE* a type of small cake

Maid of Or-le-ans /,meɪd əv ɔː'liːnz||-ɔː'rlɪənz/ [*the*] see SAINT JOAN OF ARC

maid-ser-vant /'meɪd,sɜːvənt||-ɜːr-/ *n* *esp. old use* a female servant —compare MANSERVANT

Maid-stone /'meɪdstən/ a town in Kent, England, where the local government for that COUNTY is based

Mai-gret /'meɪgreɪ||meɪ'greɪ/ the main character in the very popular books by Georges Simenon, the Belgian writer. Maigret is a CHIEF INSPECTOR of police in Paris.

mail ¹ /meɪl/ *n* **1** [(*the*);U] the postal system: *Airmail is quicker than sea mail.* | *I'll send it (by) first-/second-class mail.* | (*esp. AmE*) *It came in the mail.* **2** [U] letters and anything else sent or received by post, esp. those travelling or arriving together: *She was opening her mail.* **3** [C] also **mail train** /ɪ.. /- (*esp. in names*) a train which carries mail **4** [U] a computer feature that enables users to send messages to each other which can be read, re-directed, saved, copied, etc.: *Did you get my mail message about taking next Friday off?*

► **USAGE** **1 Post** is the more usual word in British English except in certain combinations such as **airmail**. **Mail** is the usual word in American English. **2 Mail**

is sometimes used in the names of newspapers, e.g. *the Daily Mail* and in the names of train or boat services, e.g. *the Irish Mail*. ◀

mail ² *v* [T (to)] *esp. AmE* to post (a letter, parcel, etc.)

mail ³ *n* [U] armour made of metal plates or rings, worn by soldiers in former times: *a coat of mail* —see also CHAIN MAIL

Mail [*the*] the DAILY MAIL

mail-bag /'meɪlbæg/ *n* **1** a large bag made of strong cloth for carrying mail in trains, ships, etc. **2** *AmE* a postman's bag for carrying mail to be delivered; POSTBAG

mail-box /'meɪlbɒks||-bɔːks/ *n* *AmE* **1** a place for posting letters, etc.; POSTBOX **2** a place where one's mail is left near one's house; a LETTERBOX separate from the door —see LETTERBOX and see picture at POST BOX

mail drop /ɪ.. / *n* *AmE* **1** a mailbox (2) **2** an address used in the sending of secret messages **3** an address which exists only for the purpose of receiving mail: *The police discovered that the address found on the murdered man was a mail drop.*

Mai-ler /'meɪlə/ **Norman** (1923–) an American writer famous for his treatment of social and political subjects. His books include *The Naked and the Dead*, *The Armies of the Night*, and *The Executioner's Song*.

mailing list /ɪ.. / *n* a list of names and addresses kept by an organization, to which it sends information by mail: *I'll put you on our mailing list, sir.*

mail-man /'meɪlmæn/ *n* -men /men/ *AmE* for POSTMAN

Mail on Sun-day /ɪ.. 'ɒ/ [*the*] a popular British newspaper which comes out on Sundays, produced by the same company and for the same readers as the DAILY MAIL. It is a TABLOID newspaper and known for its generally right-wing political news.

mail or-der /ɪ.. 'ɒ/ *n* [U] a method of selling goods in which the buyer chooses them at home, often from a book (CATALOGUE) which lists them, and the goods that have been ordered are sent by post

mail-shot /'meɪlʃɒt||-ʃaʊt/ *n* a sending of advertisements or other sorts of information to large numbers of people by post

maim /meɪm/ *v* [T] to wound very severely and usu. lastingly: *She survived the accident but she was maimed for life and will never walk again.*

main ¹ /meɪn/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] of greater size, importance, or influence than all others; chief: *a busy main road* | *We have our main meal in the evening.* | *Note down the main points of the speech.* | *Soldiers guarded the main gates.* —see also MAINLY

main ² *n* **1** also **mains** *pl.* — the chief pipe supplying water or gas, or a chief wire carrying electricity, into a building from outside: *The workman accidentally drilled a hole in the gas main.* | *She turned the water off at the mains.* (=so that the complete supply to the house was cut off) —see also MAINS **2** **in the main** on the whole; usually; mostly —see also **by/with might and main** (MIGHT ²)

main chance /ɪ.. 'ɒ/ [*the*] *infml, esp. BrE* the possibility of making money or of other personal gain: *He always had an eye to* (=had as his purpose) **the main chance.**

main clause /ɪ.. 'ɒ/ *n* an INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

main course /ɪ.. / *n* the most important dish in a meal: *They served chicken as the main course.*

main drag /ɪ.. 'ɒ/ *n* [(*the*)] *esp. AmE sl* a chief street in a town or city where shops and businesses are found: *Let's take a cruise down the main drag and see what's going on.* | *It's a really small town. The main drag is only a block long.*

Maine /meɪn/ (*written abbrev. ME.*) — a state in the NE of the US, on the Atlantic coast and bordering on Canada —see colour map on pages 1374–5

main-frame /'meɪnfreɪm/ *n* the largest and most powerful type of computer —compare MICROCOMPUTER, MINICOMPUTER, PERSONAL COMPUTER

main-land /'meɪnlænd, -lənd/ *n* [*the*] a land mass, considered without its islands: *Ferry services operate between the islands and the mainland.* —**mainland** *adj* [A] : *the good road network in mainland Britain*

main-line /'meɪnlain/ *v* [I;T] *sl* to put (INJECT) a drug into one of the chief VEINS of the body, either for pleasure or because one is dependent on it, not for medical reasons



main line /ˌˌˈˌ/ *n* a chief railway line

main-ly /ˈmeɪnli/ *adv* [no comp.] in most cases or to a large degree; chiefly: *I don't know what her interests are, because we talk mainly about work when we meet.* | *His money comes mainly from business investments.*

main-mast /ˈmeɪnmɑːst, -məst||-məst, -məst/ *n* the largest or most important of the MASTS which hold up the sails on a ship

mains /meɪnz/ *n* [the+sing./pl. v] *esp. BrE* a supply of electricity produced centrally and brought to houses, etc., by wires: *Does your radio work off the mains or from a battery?* | *a mains radio*

main-sail /ˈmeɪnsəl, not tech -seɪl/ *n* the chief sail on a ship, usu. the one on the mainmast —see picture at YACHT

main-spring /ˈmeɪnsprɪŋ/ *n* **1** the chief spring in a watch **2** [(of) *usu. sing.*] the chief force or reason that makes something happen: *His belief in liberty was the main-spring of his fight against slavery.*

main-stay /ˈmeɪnstet/ *n* [(of) *usu. sing.*] someone or something which provides the chief means of support: *Agriculture is still the mainstay of the country's economy.*

main-stream¹ /ˈmeɪnstriːm/ *n* [the] the main or most widely accepted way of thinking or acting in relation to a subject: *Their views lie outside the mainstream of current medical opinion.* —**mainstream** *adj* [A] : *mainstream philosophical thinking*

mainstream² *v* [T;I] *AmE* to include (a child with learning problems or physical disability) in a class with children developing in the expected way —**ing** *n* [U]

Main Street /ˌˌˈˌ/ *n* *AmE* **1** [C] (the name of) the most important business street in many small towns in the US. **2** [U] small towns in general, esp. in relation to their political and social values: *The president's speech wasn't received very well on Main Street.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** A novel by Sinclair Lewis called *Main Street*, about life in a small Midwestern town, gave an image of CONSERVATISM and NARROW-MINDEDNESS in small towns. ◀

main-tain /meɪnˈteɪn, mən-/ *v* **1** [T] to continue to have, do, etc., as before; **KEEP up**: *He took the lead, and maintained it until the end of the race.* | *I hope you will maintain your recent improvement.* | *Part of her job is to maintain good relations with our suppliers.* **2** [T] to keep (something) in good condition by making repairs to it and taking care of it: *The railway lines have to be constantly maintained.* | *a well-maintained house* **3** [T] to (continue to) argue in favour of or declare to be true; **ASSERT**: *Throughout the trial he maintained his innocence.* [+ (that)] *Some people still maintain that the Earth is flat.* **4** [T] **a** to support with money: *He is too poor to maintain his family.* **b** to keep in existence: *The supplies of food were scarcely enough to maintain life.* **5** [I] *AmE infml* to continue in one's present state or course of action — **able** *adj*

main-te-nance /ˈmeɪntənəns/ *n* [U] **1** the act of maintaining, esp. of keeping something in good condition: *lessons in car maintenance* **2** *BrE* = money paid regularly by a DIVORCED person to his or her former partner, to help financially or support their children. The man and woman may agree the amount between themselves, but usually a court decides the amount and orders that it must be paid. Usually the man has to pay the woman, but if she earns more than he does she may have to pay, especially if the children live with their father. If the money is not paid regularly, the court may order the person's employers to take it out of their pay —compare ALIMONY, CHILD SUPPORT and see also DIVORCE¹

maintenance order /ˌˌˈˌ/ *n* *BrE* an order made by a law court that a person shall pay for the support of others, esp. a man for his (former) wife and their children

mai-son-ette /ˌmeɪzəˈnet/ *n* *esp. BrE* a flat, usu. on two floors, that is part of a larger house but which has its own door to the outside

mai-tre d' /ˌmetrəˈdiː, meɪ-/ also **maitre d'hôtel** /ˌmetrəˈdɒʊˈtel, meɪ-/ *n* a person in charge of a restaurant, who tells guests where to sit and waiters what to do, etc.

maize /meɪz/ *esp. BrE* || **Indian corn** *esp. AmE, corn* *esp. AmE & AustrE* — *n* [U] (the seed of) a type of tall plant grown, esp. in America and Australia, for its ears of yellow seeds, food for people and animals —see also SWEET CORN, and see picture at CEREAL

Maj. *written abbrev. for*: Major (MAJOR² (1))

ma-jes-tic /məˈdʒestɪk/ *adj* *apprec* having or showing majesty; **STATELY** — **ally** /kli/ *adv*: *The great ship sailed slowly and majestically into harbour.*

ma-jes-ty /ˈmædʒɪsti/ *n* [U] *apprec* a powerful quality that causes great admiration; **GRANDEUR**: *the snow-covered mountains in all their majesty*

Majesty *n* (used as a title for addressing or speaking of a king or queen): *Good morning, Your Majesty.* | *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second* | *Their Majesties will open the new bridge today.*

ma-jor¹ /ˈmeɪdʒə/ *adj* **1** greater when compared with others in size, number, importance, or seriousness: *The car needs major repairs.* | *Shipbuilding used to be one of our major industries.* | *a major modern writer* | *He's going in for major surgery today.* | *The company's problems are fairly major.* —opposite **minor** **2** being or based on a musical SCALE on which there are SEMITONES between the third and fourth and the seventh and eighth notes: *in a major key* [after *n*] *a symphony in D major* **3** [after *n*] *BrE* old use being the older of two boys of the same name at the same school: *Smith major* —opposite **minor**

► **USAGE** Neither **major** nor **minor** is used in comparisons with *than*. **Superior**, **inferior**, **senior**, and **junior** can be used in comparisons, but they are followed by *to* not *than*: *This restaurant is superior to the one we usually go to.* | *She is senior to everyone else in the company.* ◀

major² *n* **1** an officer of middle rank in the British or US army or MARINES or the US airforce —see also DRUMMAJOR —see TABLE 3 **2** *esp. AmE* (a student studying) a chief or special subject at a university: *She's a history major.* | *Her major is history.* —see also MAJOR in **3** *law* a person who has reached the age (now 18 in Britain and the US) at which they are fully responsible in law for their actions —compare MINOR²

major³ *v*

major in sthg. *phr v* [T] *esp. AmE* to study as the chief subject(s) when doing a university degree: *He's majoring in French.* —see also MAJOR² (2)

Major, John (1943–) a British politician in the Conservative Party who entered parliament in 1979 and became PRIME MINISTER in November 1990 when Margaret Thatcher resigned (RESIGN). He immediately faced the problems of the Gulf War and Britain's economic difficulties. When he first became prime minister, he was not well-known by the British public. He seemed to many people to be a pleasant man but rather dull and boring, esp. when compared to Mrs Thatcher. He was described as “Mr Nice” or “a grey man in a grey suit”. He was re-elected as Prime Minister in the 1992 General Election. —see colour picture on page 950

Ma-jor-ca /məˈdʒɔːkə, -ˈdʒɔːr-/ a Spanish island in the W Mediterranean which is very popular with British tourists; the Spanish name is **Mallorca**. In Britain, it is often considered to be a place where large numbers of people go on cheap holidays. Some British people think that parts of the island, esp. on the coast, have been spoiled because there are too many new buildings and places of entertainment for tourists.

ma-jor-do-mo /ˌmeɪdʒəˈdɒmɒ||-dʒər-/ *n* -**mos** (*esp. in former times*) a person in charge of the servants in a large house, esp. in Spain or Italy

ma-jor-ette /ˌmeɪdʒəˈret/ also **drum majorette** — *n* one of a group of girls who wear brightly coloured uniforms including a short skirt and march in public PROCESSIONS with musical bands. They have sticks in their hands which they move in time to the music. Sometimes one girl marches alone in front of the band.

major gen-e-r-al /ˌˌˈˌ/ *n* an officer of high rank in the British or US army or the US airforce —see TABLE 3

ma-jor-i-ty /məˈdʒɔːrɪti||məˈdʒɔːr-, məˈdʒɔːr-/ *n* **1** [S (of)+sing./pl. v] the larger number or amount, esp. of people; most: *The majority of doctors agree that smoking is extremely harmful to health.* | *A majority voted in favour of the proposal.* | *In the vast majority of cases, this is a very successful operation.* | *It was a majority decision.* (=more people agreed with it than disagreed) | *The majority party in parliament forms the government.* | *At the meeting, young people were in the majority.* **2** [C *usu. sing.*] the difference in number between a large and

a smaller group: *He won by an overwhelming (=very large) majority/by a narrow (=very small) majority/by a majority of 900 votes.* **3** [U] *law* the age when one becomes a legally responsible adult –opposite **minority**

majority leader /ˌˌ... ˌ.../ *n* in the US, the person who is in charge of the organization of the members of the political party which has the most people elected in either the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES or the SENATE: *Both Howard Baker and Bob Dole were effective Senate majority leaders, able to assert leadership over the diverse forces in Congress.* –compare **MINORITY LEADER** (2)

Major Leagues /ˌ... ˌ.../ also **majors** – *n* [the + P] the group of teams that make up American professional BASEBALL: *That catcher will be ready for the major leagues soon.* | (fig.) *You'll be playing in the major leagues if you get that job with Shearson Lehman Hutton.* (=you will have an important job working with professional people) – **major-league** *adj*: *major-league baseball* | *These articles are major-league stuff.* (=are very good) –see also **BASEBALL**

major suit /ˌ... ˌ.../ *n* (in the card game BRIDGE³) either HEARTS (4) or SPADES² (1), which have a higher value than the **MINOR SUITS**

Ma-kar-i-os III /məˌkɑːrɪəs ðə ˈθɜːrd|-əʊs ðə ˈθɜːrd/, **Archbishop** (1913–77) a religious leader, politician, and the first president of Cyprus. He led the movement which brought the island's independence from Britain in 1960.

make¹ /meɪk/ *v* **made** /meɪd/ to produce something **1** [T (from, of, out of)] to produce by work or action; cause to exist: *She made a cake.* | *Did you make this dress or buy it?* | *The children are making a lot of noise.* | *He's always making trouble.* | *Parliament makes laws.* | *"I haven't got time to do it."* "Well, you must **make time**." | *He made a shelter from some branches and leaves.* | *The table is made of wood.* | *I'm going to make a skirt out of this material.* | *This car was made in Japan.* [obj(i)+obj(d)] *Will you make me a cup of coffee?* [+obj(d)+for] *Will you make a cup of coffee for me?* | (fig.) *This is his first real challenge; now we'll see what he's (really) made of.* (=see if he is brave, has a strong character, etc.) | (fig.) *No, I won't buy you a new coat – I'm not made of money you know!* –see **USAGE** to perform an action **2** [T] (used with nouns, often instead of a related verb, to show the doing of an action) to perform the actions connected with: *to make a decision* (=to decide) | *We made an important discovery.* (=We discovered something important.) | *to make an effort/a request* | *I think you've made a mistake here.* | *She made an offer of £10 for it.* | *The president is determined not to make any concessions to the terrorists* to cause to be or cause to do something **3** [T] to put into a certain state, position, etc.; cause to be: [+obj+adj] *Eating the unripe apples made him ill.* | *The decision made her very unpopular with the staff.* | *We made the house more secure by putting locks on the windows.* [+obj+v-ed] *He shouted to make himself heard across the room.* [+obj+n] *They have made her (a) director.* | *She has been made (a) director.* | *The Navy has made a man of him.* –see also **make a fool of oneself** (FOOL¹) **4** [T+obj+to-v] to force or cause (a person to do something or a thing to happen): *The pain made him cry out.* | *If you won't do it willingly, I'll make you do it!* | *Don't make me laugh!* | *Can't you make that dog stand still?* | *They made her wait.* | *She was made to wait for hours.* | *The extra cargo made the ship sink.* –see **CAUSE** (USAGE) **5** [T+obj+to-v] to represent as being, doing, happening, etc.; cause to appear as: *This photograph makes her look very young.* | *The shiny new office block makes our offices look rather drab.* | *In the film, the battle is made to take place in the winter.* to reach or gain something **6** [T] *infml* to arrive at or reach: *We made the station in time to catch the train.* | *The story made* (=was printed in) *all the papers.* | *I'm afraid I won't be able to make your party/to make it to your party.* | *If I don't make it* (=arrive) *by half past ten, assume I'm not coming.* **7** [T] to earn, gain, or get: *She makes a lot of money/£100 a week.* | *He makes a living by repairing cars.* | *The company has made a loss this year.* | *I see you've made a new friend.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *His ruthless behaviour made him many enemies.* **8** [T] to calculate (and get as a result): *He added up the figures and made a different answer from the one I got.* [+obj+n] *I make that £13.15 altogether.* | *What time do you make it?* to be or amount to **9** [L+n] to be when added together:

Two and two make four. **10** [L+n] to be counted as (first, second, etc.): *This makes our third party this month.* | *That makes four who want to go.* **11** [L(+obj)+n] to have the qualities of (esp. something good): *This story makes good reading.* | *The hall would make a good theatre.* | *"They say it will be sunny tomorrow."* "That will **make a change**." | *She would make him a good wife.* other meanings **12** [T] *infml* to give the particular qualities of; complete: *It's the bright paint which really makes the room.* | *The good news really made my day!* (=meant I had a good day) **13** [T] to tidy (a bed that has just been slept in) by straightening the sheets, pulling over the cover, etc. **14** [T] *esp. old use* to travel (a distance): *He made a few more yards before he fell to the ground.* **15** [T+to-v; obj] *lit or old use* to be about (to): *He made to speak, but I stopped him.* **16** **make a go of sthg** to succeed; do something well: *They're really making a go of their marriage/business.* **17** **make as if to** to be about to: *He made as if to speak, but I stopped him.* **18** **make a play for** *AmE infml* to try to get: *He made a play for the keys, but I held them out of his reach.* **19** **make believe** to pretend: *They made believe they were princes and princesses.* –see also **MAKE-BELIEVE** **20** **make do (with/without something)** *infml* to use (something) even though it may not be exactly what is wanted or needed: *We haven't got meat, so we'll have to make do with bread/make do without.* **21** **make good a** *AmE* [+on] to keep a promise or repay a debt: *He made good on all his debts.* **b** to succeed: *You'll make good if you keep trying.* **22** **make it:** **a** to arrive in time: *I think we'll just make it!* **b** *infml* to succeed: *It's hard to make it to the top in show business.* **23** **make like** *AmE infml, sometimes derog* to act as if one were; pretend to be: *He makes like he's the biggest TV star around.* **24** **make my day** a threat or warning not to do sthg. because the speaker is ready for trouble: *Go on, hit me. Make my day.* **25** **make or break** (which will) cause success or complete failure: *What the critics say can make or break a new young performer.* | *a make-or-break decision* –see also **MADE**²

▷ **USAGE 1** Compare **do** and **make**. These are used in many fixed expressions like **do a favour**, **make war**, where there is no rule about which one to use. But generally you **do** an action and **make** something which was not there before: *to do the shopping/the ironing/your exercises* | *to make a fire/a noise* | "What are you **doing**?" "Cooking." | "What are you **making**?" "A cake." **2** When **make** means "to force" or "to cause", do not use *to* before a following verb unless the sentence is passive: *She made me cry.* | *I was made to walk home.* ◁

make away with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *old-fash infml* **1** to kill (esp. oneself) **2** to steal

make for sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] **1** to move in the direction of, usu. quickly or purposefully: *It started raining, so she made for the nearest shelter.* **2** to result in; make possible or likely: *The large print makes for easier reading.*

make (sthg./sbdy.) **into** sthg. *phr v* [T] to use or be usable in making; turn into: *I'm going to make this material into a skirt.*

make sthg. of sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] **1** to understand (partly or at all) by: *I don't know what to make of him/of his odd behaviour.* **2** to give (the usu. stated amount of importance) to: *She tends to make too much of her problems.* | *Well, do you want to make something of it?* (=a threatening reply to someone who is arguing)

make off *phr v* [I] to leave or escape in a hurry

make off with sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to steal

make out *phr v* **1** [T] (**make** sthg. ↔ **out**) to write in complete form: *to make out a cheque/a bill/a list* **2** [T] (**make** sthg./sbdy. ↔ **out**) *infml* to see, hear, or understand with difficulty: *I can just make out the writing.* | *He's an odd character; I can't quite make him out.* [+wh-] *I can't make out how to put the top back on.* **3** [T] *infml* to claim or pretend (that someone or something is so), usu. falsely: [+ (that)] *He makes out he's the only person here who does any work.* [+obj+adj] *He makes himself out to be very important.* | *She's not as bad as she is made out (to be).* **4** [T] (**make** sthg. ↔ **out**) to prove by giving good reasons: *I'm sure we can make out a case for allowing you a longer holiday this year.* **5** [I] *infml* to succeed or advance, in business or life generally: *The firm isn't making out as well as was hoped.* | *How did she make out at the interview?* **6** [I; T (with)] *AmE sl* to kiss and touch

another person in a sexual way: *They were making out in the back of a car.*

make sthg. ↔ **over** phr v [T] 1 [(to)] to pass over to someone else, esp. legally: *He made over his estate to his son before he died.* 2 esp. AmE to remake, ALTER: *They're going to make the whole thing over.* | *make over a dress* —see also MAKEOVER

make towards sthg. phr v [T no pass.] fml to move in the direction of; **MAKE for**: *traffic making towards the city in the morning*

make up phr v 1 [T] (**make** sthg. ↔ **up**) to invent (a story, a poem, an excuse, etc.), often in order to deceive —see also MADE-UP (2) 2 [I;T] (=make sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up**) to use special paint and powder on (someone or a part of someone's body, esp. the face) so as to change or improve the appearance: *She never goes out without making herself up first.* | *They made him up as an old man for the last act of the play.* —see also MADE-UP (1), MAKE-UP (1) 3 [T] (**make** sthg. ↔ **up**) to prepare, arrange, or put together ready for use: *The chemist made up the doctor's prescription/a bottle of medicine.* | *I can make up a bed for you on the floor.* | *I'm making up a parcel of old clothes for the jumble sale.* 4 [T] (**make** sthg. ↔ **up**) to form as a whole; CONSTITUTE: *Farming and mining make up most of the country's industry.* | *The committee is made up of representatives from all the universities.* —see also MAKE-UP (2) 5 [T (into)] (**make** sthg. ↔ **up**) to produce (something) from (material) by cutting and sewing: *I've made up the curtains.* | *She made the material up into a dress.* 6 [T (to)] (**make** sthg. ↔ **up**) to make (an amount or number) complete: *They made up a four at tennis.* | *I'll make up the money (to the amount you need).* 7 [T] (**make** sthg. ↔ **up**) to repay or give (an amount) in return: *You must make up what you owe before the end of the month.* 8 [I;T] (=make sthg. ↔ **up**) (**with**) to become friends again after (a quarrel): *to kiss and make up after an argument* | *It's time you made it up with your sister.* —see also **make up one's mind** (MIND¹) 9 [T] (**make** sthg. **up**) to do something after the time it was supposed to have been done: *I have to make up all the work I missed while I was ill.* | *Will you be able to make up the test?*

make up for sthg. phr v [T] to repay or COMPENSATE for (what was bad before) with something good: *This beautiful autumn makes up for the wet summer.* | *We're working fast to try and make up for lost time.* [+v-ing] *Nothing can make up for missing such a wonderful opportunity.*

make up to phr v [T] 1 (**make up to** sbdy.) usu. derog to try to gain the favour of by appearing friendly, pleasant, and full of praise: *People only make up to him because of his wealth.* 2 **make it up to someone (for something)** to repay someone with good things in return for something good they have done or to make up for something bad experienced by them: *You've been so kind — I'll make it all up to you one day.* | *I do apologize for all the inconvenience this has caused — I'll make it up to you somehow.*

make with sthg. phr v [T] sl, esp. AmE to produce; bring: *I'm hungry; make with the dinner!*

make² n 1 [(of)] a type of product, esp. as produced by a particular maker: *This watch keeps going wrong; I wish I'd bought a better make.* | *What make (of car) is this?* 2 **on the make** derog a actively trying to gain personal profit or advantage b trying to obtain a sexual experience with someone

▷ **USAGE** **Brand** and **make** can have similar meanings, but **brand** is usually used only with small or inexpensive things. Compare *What brand of toothpaste/soap powder do you use?* and *What make of computer did you buy?* <

make-be-lieve /'meɪkə'bi:ve/ n [U] a state of pretending; believing things that have no connection with reality, esp. things that one would like to be true: *She lives in a world of make-believe if she thinks she can get to college without working hard.* —see also **make believe** (MAKE¹ (19))

make-o-ver /'meɪkəʊvə/ n a new haircut and usu. new MAKE-UP and clothes so that one looks different and usu. better than before: *This fashion magazine often has photographs of makeovers in it.*

mak-er /'meɪkə/ n 1 a (often in comb.) a person who makes something: *a mapmaker* | *a filmmaker* | *a trouble-maker* b also **makers** pl. — a firm that makes something: *My watch has gone wrong; I'm sending it back to the*

makers. 2 (often cap.) God: (euph) *He's gone to meet his maker.* (=has died)

make-shift /'meɪkʃɪft/ adj, n (being) something made or used in the case of a sudden or urgent need, because there is nothing better: *a makeshift shelter*

make-up /'·-/ n 1 [C usu. sing.; U] powder, paint, etc., worn on the face, either by actors or (esp. by women) for improving one's appearance: *eye make-up* | *stage make-up* —see also **MAKE up** (2) 2 [C usu. sing.] a combination of members or qualities, esp. in a person's character: *The make-up of the crew is five Englishmen, two Americans, and an Australian.* | *You won't get him to change his behaviour at his age; it's in his make-up.* —see also **MAKE up** (4) 3 [C usu. sing.] the way in which the print, pictures, etc., in a newspaper or on a page are arranged 4 [C] AmE an examination taken to replace one that was missed: *I've got a make-up in Algebra for the test I missed when I was sick.*

make-weight /'·-/ n a person or thing added, invited, etc. only in order to make up a total value, number, etc., not for any value of its or their own

make-work /'·-/ n [U] AmE work which is not important but which keeps people busy: *The substitute teacher gave the students a lot of make-work in order to keep them quiet.*

mak-ing /'meɪkɪŋ/ n 1 [U] (usu. in comb.) the process or business of producing something by work or activity, esp. with the hands: *shoemaking* | *dressmaking* | *film-making equipment* | *a lawmaking body* 2 [the+of] a means of gaining great improvement or success: *Hard work will be the making of him.* —compare UNDOING 3 **in the making**: a in the process of being made: *The film is still in the making.* b ready to be produced: *There's a fortune in the making for anyone willing to work hard.*

mak-ings /'meɪkɪŋz/ n [the+P+of] everything that is necessary for developing (into): *She has the makings of a good doctor.* | *The story has all the makings of a great movie.*

mal- see WORD FORMATION

Mal-a-bar Coast /,mæləbə: 'kəʊst||-baɪr-/ [the] the SW coast of India, which produces COCONUTS, rice, and SPICES

mal-a-chite /'mæləkait/ n [U] a decorative green stone

mal-ad-just-ed /,mælə'dʒʌstɪd-/ adj not having a good relationship with or attitude to other people or to one's surroundings, so that one is unhappy, dissatisfied with life, etc.; not WELL-ADJUSTED: *a home for maladjusted children* —**ment** n [U]

mal-ad-min-i-stra-tion /,mæləd,mɪnɪ'streɪʃən/ n [U] lack of proper care (and perhaps honesty) in carrying out duties, usu. by someone in an official position

mal-a-droit /,mælə'drɔɪt/ adj fml not skilful in action or behaviour; awkward: *The chairman was criticized for his maladroitness handling of the press conference.* — ~ **ly** adv — ~ **ness** n [U]

mal-a-dy /'mælədi/ n fml or lit 1 something that is wrong with a system or organization 2 esp. old use an illness

Mal-a-ga /'mæləgə/ a city and port in the S of Spain on the Mediterranean coast

ma-laise /mə'leɪz/ n 1 [U] a feeling of illness without any particular pain or appearance of disease 2 [C usu. sing.; U] a general but not clearly expressed feeling of worry, dissatisfaction, and lack of confidence, esp. shown in lack of activity: *The underlying social malaise in this country is causing a steady decline in production and trade.*

Mal-a-mud /'mæləməd/, **Ber-nard** /'bɜ:nəd||bər'nɑ:rd/ (1914–86) an American writer who often wrote about Jewish life and customs. His books include *The Fixer* and *The Magic Barrel*.

Mal-a-prop /'mæləprɒp||-prɔ:p/, **Mrs** a character in Richard Sheridan's play *The Rivals*, known for her funny misuse of words (MALAPROPISMS)

mal-a-prop-is-m /'mæləprɒpɪzəm||-prɔ:-/ n an often amusing misuse of a word, such that the word incorrectly used sounds similar to the intended word but means something quite different

ma-lar-i-a /mə'leəriə/ n [U] a common disease of hot countries, spread by the bite of certain mosquitoes (MOSQUITO), which causes attacks of fever and coldness in turn which may be repeated periodically for many years —**larial** adj

ma-lar-key /mə'lɑ:ki||-ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] *infml* a speech or piece of writing which tries to deceive or be impressive to people but actually says little: *Everything he said was just a load of malarkey.*

Ma-la-wi /mə'lɑ:wi/, **the Republic of** a country in the E of central Africa which has borders with Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique; capital Lilongwe; population 8,022,000 (1989) — **an** *adj, n*

Ma-lay /mə'leɪ||mə'leɪ, 'meɪleɪ/ also **Ma-lay-an** /-ən/ — *adj* of the people or language of Malaysia

Ma-lay-a /mə'leɪə/ *n* the former name of Peninsula or West Malaysia, now a part of Malaysia

Ma-lay-si-a /mə'leɪziə||-ʒə, -ʃə/ a country in SE Asia consisting of the PENINSULA of Malaya which borders Thailand and, across the South China Sea, East Malaysia (the states of Sabah and Sarawak in N Borneo) which borders Indonesia; capital Kuala Lumpur; population 16,958,000 (1989) — **sian** *n, adj*

Mal-colum X /,mælkəm 'eks/ (1925–65) a black American leader who became a Muslim while in prison. When he came out of prison in 1952 he spoke in favour of black SEPARATISM. Later he split away from the Black Muslims and formed the Organization of Afro-American Unity in 1964. He was murdered while making a speech in Harlem, New York City. In 1992 a film was made about his life.

mal-con-tent /'mælkəntent||,mælkən'tent/ *n fml* a dissatisfied person who is likely to make trouble

Mal-dives /'mɔ:ldɪvz, -dɪvz, -daɪvz/ [*the*+P] a group of small islands forming an independent country in the Indian Ocean SW of Sri Lanka; capital Malé; population 206,000 (1989) — **divian** /mɔ:l'dɪviən/

Ma-lé /'mɑ:leɪ/ the capital of the Maldives

male¹ /meɪl/ *adj* **1** (typical) of the sex that does not give birth to young: *a male monkey* | *a male-voice choir* | *male characteristics* | *a magazine with a predominantly male readership* **2** (of a flower or plant) not producing fruit **3 tech** made to fit into a hollow part: *a male plug* — see FEMALE (USAGE), FEMININE (USAGE) — **ness** *n* [U]

male² *n* a male person or animal: *In most birds the male is bigger and more brightly coloured than the female.*

male chau-vin-ist /,· '...-ɪ/ *n derog* a man who holds strongly to unreasoned opinions about the way men and women should behave and the parts they should play in life, esp. believing that men are better than women: *My boss is a male chauvinist who thinks no woman could do his job.* | *a male chauvinist pig whose wife stays at home doing housework while he goes out and has fun*

mal-e-dic-tion /,mældɪ'dɪkʃən/ *n esp. fml or lit* a curse

mal-e-fac-tor /'mældɪfæktə/ *n esp. fml or lit* a person who does evil things, esp. a criminal — compare **BENEFACITOR**

ma-lef-i-cent /mə'leɪfɪsənt/ *adj fml or lit* doing or able to do evil — **cence** *n* [U]

male men-o-pause /,· '.../ *n* [S] a time in a man's life, when he is in his 40s or early 50s, when he wonders how much he has achieved. He may have emotional problems at this time similar to those faced by some women when they become too old to have children. The phrase is often used humorously to describe the behaviour of a middle-aged man who is not satisfied with his life at home or at work and may suddenly want to change his job or start showing an interest in much younger women: *He must be going through the male menopause.* — compare **MENOPAUSE**, **MIDDLE AGE**, **MID-LIFE CRISIS**

male-voice choir /,· '· / *n* a group of singers, all men, who usu. perform in public with an ORCHESTRA. The Welsh are famous for their male-voice choirs.

ma-lev-o-lent /mə'levələnt/ *adj esp. lit* having or expressing a wish to harm others — compare **BENEVOLENT** — **ly** *adv* — **lence** *n* [U]

mal-feas-ance /mæ'lfi:zəns/ *n law* **1** [U] wrongdoing **2** [C] an unlawful act, esp. by an official in government

mal-for-ma-tion /,mælfɔ: 'meɪfən||-ɔ:r-/ *n* **1** [U] the condition of being formed or shaped wrongly **2** [C] a shape, structure, or part (esp. a part of the body) that is formed badly or wrongly

mal-formed /,mæ'l fɔ:md-||-ɔ:r-/ *adj* made or shaped badly — compare **DEFORM**

mal-func-tion /mæ'l fʌŋkʃən/ *n fml* a fault in operation:

Results have been delayed owing to a malfunction in the computer. — **malfunction** *v* [I]

Ma-li /'mɑ:li/, **the Republic of** *n* in area one of the largest countries in W Africa, including part of the south Sahara; capital Bamako; population 7,960,000 (1989) — **Malian** *n, adj*

Mal-i-bu /'mælibu:/ a BEACH in California, in the US, famous for surfing (SURF²). Many rich and famous people, esp. film stars, live there.

mal-ice /'mæljɪs/ *n* [U] **1** the wish, desire, or intention to hurt or harm someone: *He got no advantage out of it; he did it from pure malice.* | *I bear you no malice.* (=do not wish to harm you) **2 with malice aforethought law** (of a criminal act) planned before it was done; done on purpose

ma-li-cious /mə'lɪʃəs/ *adj* resulting from or expressing malice: *a malicious attack on his reputation* | *a malicious smile* — **ly** *adv*

ma-lign¹ /mə'lain/ *v* [T] to say or write bad or unkind things about, esp. falsely: *She was maligned by the newspapers.* | *This much-maligned novel is in fact remarkable in many ways.*

malign² *adj derog, esp. lit* (of a thing) harmful; causing evil: *a malign influence* — **ly** *adv* — **ity** /mə'lɪgnɪti/ *n* [U]

ma-lig-nan-cy /mə'lɪgnənsɪ/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being malignant **2** [C] *med* a dangerous growth of cells; a TUMOUR of a malignant kind

ma-lig-nant /mə'lɪgnənt/ *adj* **1** full of hate and a strong wish to do harm: *a malignant nature/look* **2 med** (of a disease) serious enough to cause death if not prevented: *a malignant tumour* — compare **BENIGN** — **ly** *adv*

ma-lin-ger /mə'lɪŋgə/ *v* [I] to avoid work by pretending to be (still) sick: *He says he's got flu, but I think he's malingering.* — **er** *n*

Mal-i-now-ski /,mældɪ'nɒfski||-'nɑ:f-/ **Bron-i-slav** /'brɒnɪslæf||'brɑ:n-/ (1884–1942) a British anthropologist (ANTHROPOLOGY), born in Poland, who established the first university department of anthropology in Britain and wrote several important books on the subject

mall /mɔ:l, mæl||mɔ:l/ *n AmE* a large shopping centre, usu. enclosed, where cars are not permitted but there is plenty of space to park them outside — see also **STRIP MALL**

Mall, The **1** a straight road in Central London which connects Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square. Royal PROCESSIONS always go along The Mall, which is then decorated with flags. **2** a kind of park in Washington, D.C., surrounded by the Washington Monument and several famous MUSEUMS, esp. the Smithsonian Institution. The Mall is a very large grassy area which people use for PICNICS, games, concerts, etc.

mal-lard /'mæləd||-ərd/ *n* **mallard** or **mallards** a wild duck, the male of which has a green head and a reddish-brown breast

mal-le-a-ble /'mæliəbəl/ *adj* **1** (of a metal) that can be beaten, pressed, rolled, etc., into a new shape **2** (of people or their character) easily influenced, changed, or trained; **TRACTABLE** — **bility** /,mæliə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

mal-let /'mæljɪt/ *n* **1** a wooden hammer with a large head — see picture at **TOOL** **2** a wooden hammer with a long handle used in the games of CROQUET and POLO

mal-low /'mæləʊ/ *n* a plant with pink or purple flowers and fine hairs on its stem and leaves — see also **MARSHMALLOW**

Mal-mö /'mælməʊ/ the city in SW Sweden, an important port and naval base

malm-sey /'mɑ:mzi/ *n* [U] a dark type of MADEIRA (=a strong sweet wine)

mal-nour-ished /,mæ'l nɑ:ɪʃt-||-'nɜ:z-/ *adj* suffering from malnutrition

mal-nu-tri-tion /,mælnju'trɪʃən||-nu-/ *n* [U] (a poor condition of health resulting from) bad feeding, with food that is the wrong sort and/or too small in amount

mal-o-dor-ous /,mæ'ləʊdəs/ *adj fml or pomp* having a bad smell

Mal-o-ry /'mæləri/, **Sir Thomas** (1400?–71) an English writer famous for his book *Morte d'Arthur*, which tells the story of King Arthur and his KNIGHTS — see **ARTHURIAN LEGEND**

mal-prac-tice /,mæ'l prækɪs/ *n* [C;U] (a) failure to carry out one's professional duty properly or honestly, often

resulting in hurt, loss, or damage to someone: *She sued her doctor/solicitor for malpractice.*

mammoth

Mal-raux /mæl'raʊ/, **An-dré** /'ɒndreɪ||'ɑ:n-/ (1901–76) a French writer and thinker, very active in politics, whose many books include *La condition humaine* and *L'espoir*

malt¹ /mɔ:lt/ *n* [U] grain, usu. BARLEY, which has been kept in water for a while until it grows a little and then dried for use in making drinks such as beer and WHISKY

malt² *v* [T] to make (grain) into malt

Mal-ta /'mɔ:ltə/ (the largest of) a group of islands in the Mediterranean Sea which became an independent republic and member of the COMMONWEALTH (1) in 1964 and is now popular with British tourists. It consists of three main islands; Malta, Gozo and Comino; capital Valletta; population 350,000 (1989)

malted milk /,mɔ:lt'ɪ-/ *n* [C;U] **1** (a drink made from) milk treated with malt **2** *AmE* also **malted** (a drink made from) milk treated with malt, ICE CREAM, and a FLAVOURING: *a chocolate malted milk* | *I'll have a strawberry malted.*

Mal-tese /,mɔ:lt'ɪz-/ *adj* of the people or language of Malta

Maltese cross /,mɔ:lt'ɪ-/ *n* a cross with four equal arms that become wider as they go out from the centre

Mal-te-sers /mɔ:lt'ɪzəz || -zərz-/ *n* [P] *tdmk* chocolate sweets with a light, crisp centre

Mal-thus /'mæltəs/, **Thomas** (1766–1834) an English ECONOMIST famous for his work on population study. He is remembered esp. for stating that if the world's population is not controlled, either by disease and wars or by planning, it will grow faster than the world's food supply. — **Malthusian** /mælt'θju:ziən || -'θu:zən/ *adj*

malt liq-uor /,mɔ:lt'ɪ-/ *n* *AmE* a kind of BEER

mal-treat /mælt'tri:t/ *v* [T] to treat roughly and/or cruelly — **~ment** *n* [U]

malt-ster /'mɔ:ltstə/ *n* a person whose job is to malt grain (MALT²)

Mal-vern /'mɔ:lvən||-vərn/ a town in W central England, in the Malvern Hills. It is known for the theatre and music FESTIVAL held every year.

Mal-vern Hills /,mɔ:lvən'ɪl-/ also **Malverns** — [*the*] a range of hills in the English Midlands. They are known esp. for their MINERAL WATER called **Malvern Water**, which is sold all over the country.

ma-ma¹, **mamma** /'mɑ:mə/ also **momma** — *n* *AmE infml* (used only by or to very small children) mother

ma-ma² /mə'mɑ:/ *n* *BrE old use* a mother: *Good morning, mama.*

mama's boy /'mɑ:məz ,bɔɪ/ *n* *AmE for* MOTHER'S BOY

mam-ba /'mæmbə||'mɑ:mbə, 'mæmbə/ *n* a type of large very poisonous black or green African tree snake

Mam-et /'mæmɪt/, **David** (1947–) an American writer of plays and films, known esp. for *American Buffalo* and *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*

mam-mal /'mæməl/ *n* an animal of the type which is fed when young on milk from the mother's body: *Humans and dogs are mammals; birds and fish are not.* — **~ian** /mæ'meɪliən/ *adj*: *mammalian cells*

mam-ma-ry /'mæməri/ *adj* [A] *tech* of or being the breasts: *In female mammals the mammary glands produce milk.*

mam-mo-gram /'mæməgræm/ *n* an X-RAY photograph of the breasts done esp. to check for possible signs of CANCER

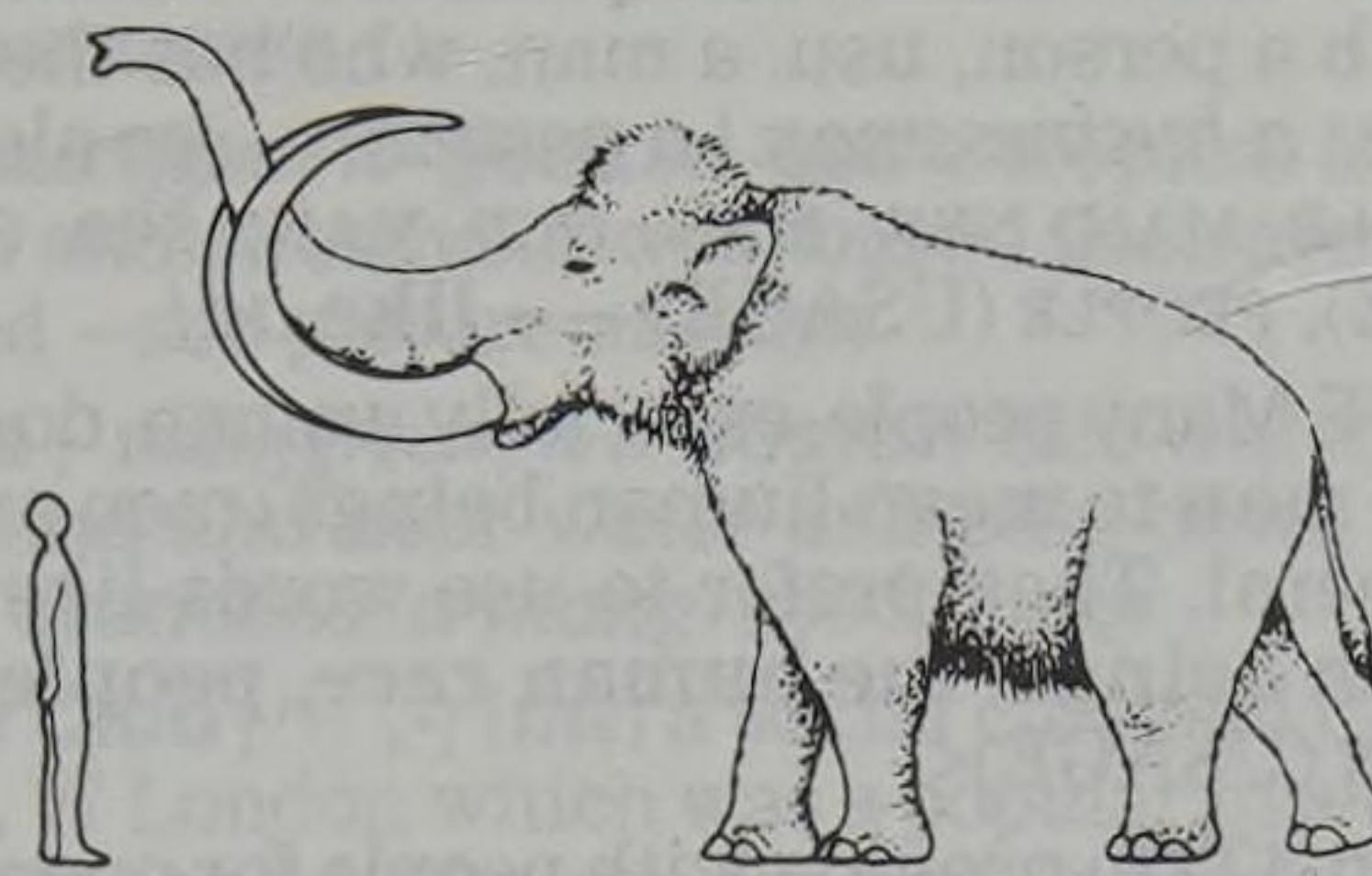
mam-mog-ra-phy /mæ'mɒgrəfi||-'mɑ:-/ *n* [U] examination of the breasts using X-RAY photographs, esp. to check for possible signs of CANCER

mam-mon /'mæmən/ *n* (often *cap.*) money or wealth, regarded as something that people think too much of. In the Bible, mammon was a word meaning wealth, but many people thought it meant a god of money: *You cannot worship God and Mammon.* | *New York was built to the glory of mammon — money, gain, the new god.*

mam-moth¹ /'mæməθ/ *n* a large hairy elephant which lived on Earth during the early stages of human development

mammoth² *adj* [A] extremely large; HUGE: *The problem is beginning to assume mammoth proportions.* | *a mammoth task*

mam-my /'mæmi/ *n* **1** esp. *IrE & AmE dial* (used esp. by or to children) a mother **2** *AmE old-fash, often derog* a black woman who looks after white children. She is often



shown in CARTOONS as large and fat, with a loud voice.

man¹ /mæn/ *n* **men** /men/ **1** [C] an adult human male: *He's a nice man/a tall man/a hard-working man.* | *men, women, and children* | *If you want a good administrator he's your man.* (=the right man to choose) | *The army will make a man of him.* (=make him brave, strong, etc.) | *The boy tried to be a man and not cry, but the pain brought tears to his eyes.* **2** [C] a human being: *All men must die.* **3** [U] the human race: *Man must change in a changing world.* **4** [U] any of the sorts of human-like creatures that lived in former times: *prehistoric man* — see also NEANDERTHAL MAN **5** [C] an adult male in employment: *The men weren't happy with the employers' pay offer.* | *We'll send a man to look at your phone tomorrow.* | *a report from our man* (=representative) *in Italy* **6** a male of low rank in the armed forces: *the officers and men of the regiment* **7** a male member of a team: *The captain led his men onto the field.* **8** [C] *infml* a husband, lover, or other adult male with whom a woman lives: *waiting for her man to come out of prison* **9** *infml* a (used for addressing an adult male, esp. when the speaker is excited, angry, etc.): *Wake up, man, you can't sleep all day!* **b** esp. *AmE & CarE* (used for addressing someone, esp. an adult male): *This party's really great, man!* — see also MAN³ **10** [C] any of the objects moved by each player in a board game: *chess men* **11** a man of few words a man who does not talk very much and does not use many words to express himself **12** a man of his word someone who keeps their promises: *He's a man of his word, so if he said he'd help, he will.* **13** a man of the people a man who understands and represents the wishes and feelings of the general population **14** a man of the world a man with a lot of experience of life: *He's a man of the world. He won't be shocked.* **15** a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do a phrase supposed to be used in old COWBOY films when a man is bravely saying that he will do his duty even if it is difficult or dangerous. It is now used humorously. **16** a man's home is his castle *AmE* saying a person's home is very important to them, and they can do what they like there **17** as one man everyone together: *The audience stood as one man and applauded.* **18** man alive *AmE* (used to express great surprise): *Man alive, will you look at the size of that tomato!* **19** man and boy old-fash for the whole of his life: *He was born in the village and worked on the farm man and boy.* **20** man and wife *fml* married: *I'm afraid you can't share the same bedroom if you're not man and wife.* **21** man's best friend dogs: *It is ironical that man's best friend is so often ill-treated by humans.* **22** man's inhumanity to man a phrase used when talking about the cruelty of one group of people to another group **23** no man is an island *quote* a phrase from a poem by John Donne, used when saying that all people need other people **24** one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind *quote* the phrase used by Neil Armstrong when he first stepped onto the surface of the moon in 1969 **25** one's own man independent in one's opinions and actions: *I shouldn't try telling him what to do; he's very much his own man.* **26** the man in the moon the face or shape of a man, seen in the moon's surface from Earth (often mentioned in children's poems and songs) **27** the man in the street (the idea of) the average person, who represents general opinion: *This kind of music doesn't appeal to the man in the street.* | *People who market goods need to find out what the man in the street wants.* **28** (the) man of the match the best or most notable player in a particular sports match: *Man of the match must be John Doe, with that brilliant hat trick.* **29** the man on the Clapham omnibus *infml* the average person who represents general opinion **30** to a man becoming rare every person: *They agreed, to a man.* **31** to the last man

until none was left **32 -man** /mən, mæn/ **a** a man who lives in or is from the stated place: *a Frenchman* | *a countryman* **b** a person, usu. a man, who has the stated job, skill, etc.: *a businessman* | *a postman* —see also BEST MAN, DIRTY OLD MAN, NEW MAN, OLD MAN; see GENTLEMAN (USAGE), PEOPLE (USAGE) — **~ like** *adj*

▷ USAGE Many people, especially women, do not like the use of **man** to mean human beings (men and women) in general. They prefer to use words like: **humans**, **human beings**, **the human race**, **people**. —see also PERSON (USAGE)◁

man² *v* -nn- [T] to provide with people for operation: *Man the lifeboats!* | *the first manned spacecraft to reach the moon* —see also OVERMANNED, UNDERMANNED, UNMANNED

man³ *interj* *AmE infml* (used for expressing strong feelings of excitement, surprise, etc.) —see also MAN¹ (9)

Man, Isle of *n* see ISLE OF MAN

man-a-bout-town /, . . ' / *n* a (rich) man who spends a great deal of time at fashionable social events in clubs, theatres, etc., and often does not work

man-a-cle /'mænəkəl/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] either of a pair of iron rings joined by a chain, used for fastening the hands or feet of a prisoner —**manacle** *v* [T]

man-age /'mænidʒ/ *v* **1** [T] to be in control or charge of the affairs of, esp. the business affairs of; be or act as the manager of: *He managed the company while his father was away ill.* | *He manages the world tennis champion.* | *My wife manages our money very well.* | *a well-managed company* **2** [I;T] (often used with **can**, **could**) to succeed in dealing with (something or someone difficult): *"Do you need any help with those heavy bags?" "No, thanks, I can manage."* | *She knows how to manage him when he's angry.* [+to-v] *I finally managed to find what I was looking for* **3** [T] *infml* (often used with **can**, **could**) to succeed in taking, using, or doing: *I can't manage another mouthful.* | *I couldn't manage two weeks' holiday this year, only one.* | *Could you manage Friday for our meeting?* | *She could barely manage a smile.* [+to-v] *The little boy had somehow managed to tie his shoelaces together.* —see COULD (USAGE) **4** [I (on)] to succeed in living, esp. on a small amount of money: *They managed quite well on very little money.*

man-age-a-ble /'mænidʒəbəl/ *adj* easy or possible to control or deal with: *My hair is much more manageable since I had it cut short.* | *The rate of inflation has been brought down to a more manageable level.* —opposite **unmanageable** —**bility** /,mænidʒə'bilɪti/ *n* [U]

man-age-ment /'mænidʒmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the art or practice of managing, esp. of managing a business or money: *The company's failure was mainly due to bad management.* | *a management course* | *man management* (=controlling and dealing with people) **2** [C;U+*sing./pl. v*] the people in charge of a company, industry, etc.: *The management is/are having talks with the workers.* | *The union has agreed to talks with senior management.* | *a management decision* **3** [U] skill in dealing with people or situations; judgment

management buy-out /, . . ' / *n* the buying of SHARES in a business by the management so that they control the company

management con-sult-ant /' . . . , / *n* a person who is paid to go to a company to give the management (2) advice on how to organize and run it

man-ager /'mænidʒə/ *n* **1** a person who manages a business or other activity: *She's a bank manager/a hotel manager.* | *He's the party's campaign manager.* | *That was a terrible meal; I'm going to complain to the manager.* **2** a person who manages the business affairs of an entertainer: *the manager of a pop group* **3** a person who manages the training and other activities of a sportsman or team: *the England soccer manager* **4** someone who is skilled at managing their money, personal affairs, etc.: *She must be a very good manager to feed her children so well on so little money.*

man-ager-ess /,mænidʒə'res/ || 'mænidʒərɪs/ *n* a woman who controls a business, esp. a shop or restaurant; female MANAGER (1)

man-a-ge-ri-al /,mænɪ'dʒɪəriəl/ *adj* of or concerning a manager or management: *a managerial position* | *managerial responsibilities*

managing di-rec-tor /, . . . ' / also MD— *n* BrE a person

who is in charge of an organization, being responsible for its day-to-day running according to the decisions of the board of directors

Ma-nag-ua /mə'nægwə||-'næ-/ the capital city of Nicaragua, in the W of the country. Managua was badly damaged by an EARTHQUAKE in 1972.

Ma-na-ma /mə'nɑ:mə/ a city and port which is the capital of Bahrain

ma-ña-na /mæn'ja:nə||mæn-/ *n* *Sp* not now, some other time (a Spanish word which means **tomorrow**): People use this word to describe the attitude of those who delay doing things because they are very relaxed or lazy: *Mexico is sometimes said to have a mañana culture.*

Man and Su-per-man /, . . ' / a play by George Bernard Shaw, written in 1903

man-at-arms /, . . ' / *n* **men-at-arms** a soldier of former times, esp. one with a horse and heavy armour and weapons

Man-ches-ter /'mæntʃɪstər, -tʃes-/ a city in the NW of England. Manchester was formerly known for its wool and cotton industries and is now the CULTURAL and financial centre for the area. —see also GREATER MANCHESTER and see colour map on page 818

Manchester Cit-y /, . . ' / also **Man Cit-y** /, . . ' / *infml*—an English football team from Manchester

Manchester Ship Ca-nal /, . . ' . . / a man-made stretch of water in NW England which runs from Manchester to the sea. It was built to help the cotton factories in the 19th century.

Manchester U-ni-ted /, . . . ' / also **Man United** *infml*—an English football team from Manchester with a long history of success. In 1958 an aeroplane carrying members of the team crashed in Munich, and several team members were killed. Many people still remember this event.

Man-cu-ni-an /mæn'kjuzniən/ *adj, n* BrE (a person) from Manchester

man-da-la /'mændələ, mæn'dɑ:lə/ *n* (in Oriental art and religion) a usu. circular pattern which is believed to represent the universe

Mān-da-lay /,mændə'leɪ/ a city in Myanmar, known in Britain esp. because of the old popular song *The Road to Mandalay*

man-da-rin /'mændərɪn/ *n* **1** [C] also **mandarin or-ange** /, . . . ' /—a small kind of orange with a special taste and a skin which comes off easily **2** [U] (*usu. cap.*) the official form of the Chinese language; the language of Beijing and northern China and of educated Chinese people generally —compare CANTONESE **3** [C] a government official of high rank in the former Chinese EMPIRE **4** [C] BrE sometimes derog a person who holds an important official position, and may be regarded as having too much influence: *British government policy is often influenced by Whitehall mandarins.* (=top British government servants)

mandarin duck /, . . . ' / *n* an attractive small duck with clearly marked areas of coloured feathers, and wing-feathers that stick up above its back

man-date¹ /'mændet/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** the right and power given to a government, or any body of people chosen to represent others, to act according to the wishes of those who voted for it: *to seek a mandate from the electorate* [+to-v] *I say the government does not have a mandate to introduce this new law!* **2** a formal command to act in a certain way, given by a higher to a lower official: *carrying out her mandate* **3** the power given to a country by the League of Nations after the First World War to govern (part of) another country

mandate² *v* [T often *pass.*] **1** to give a MANDATE¹ (1) to (someone) to do something **2** to put (a place) under a MANDATE¹ (3): *a mandated territory*

man-da-to-ry /'mændətəri||-təri/ *adj fml* which must be done; COMPULSORY: *It's mandatory to pay the debt within six months.* | *a mandatory election* | *Voting is not mandatory.*

Man-del-a /mæn'delə/, Nelson (1918—) a South African black nationalist leader of the ANC. He was sentenced to life in prison for political offences by the South African government in 1964. He was freed in 1990 after international pressure and then continued to lead the ANC. He separated from his wife, Winnie Mandela, in 1992. —see colour picture on page 752

Mandela, Win-nie /'wini/ (1934–) the wife of Nelson Mandela and member of the ANC who helped lead the movement working to free her husband from prison. Her own activities were often limited by the South African government. In 1991, she appeared in court because it was said she had been involved in the murder of a young man, **Stompie Motchetsi**. She was found guilty of helping to KIDNAP him but appealed (APPEAL) against this decision. She and Nelson Mandela separated in 1992.

man-di-ble /'mændɪbəl/ *n tech* 1 a jaw which moves, esp. the lower jaw of an animal or fish, or a jawbone 2 the upper or lower part of a bird's beak 3 either of the two biting or holding parts in insects and CRABS

M & M's /,em ənd 'emz/ *n* [P] *AmE tdmk* (a packet of) small round chocolate sweets with a hard coloured sugar covering. M & M's are advertised with the phrase "They melt in your mouth, not in your hand."

man-do-lin /,mændə'lin/ *n* a round-backed musical instrument with eight metal strings, rather like a LUTE

man-drake /'mændreɪk/ *n* a plant from which drugs may be made, esp. those causing sleep, the root of which is in two parts, and which is said to have magic properties

man-drill /'mændrɪl/ *n* a large monkey like a BABOON with a brightly coloured face

M & S /,em ənd 'es/ see MARKS AND SPENCER

Man-dy /'mændi/ *n* a British COMIC (=picture-story magazine) for young girls

mane /meɪn/ *n* 1 the long hair on the back of a horse's neck, or around the face and neck of a lion –see picture at BIG CATS and at HORSE 2 *esp. humor* the long thick hair on a person's head

man-eat-er /'..../ *n* 1 an animal or person that eats human flesh 2 *derog humor a* a woman who has many lovers *b* a woman with a powerful character who makes men feel afraid or foolish –**man-eating** *adj*: *a man-eating lion*

Man-et /'mæneɪ||mæ'neɪ/, **Ed-ouard** /'edwəd||-wɔrd/ (1832–83) a French painter who greatly influenced the Impressionists. Two of his most well-known works are *The Balcony* and *The Fife Player*.

ma-neu-ver /mə'nu:vəʀ/ *n, v AmE for* MANOEUVRE

ma-neu-ve-ra-ble /mə'nu:və'reɪbəl/ *adj AmE for* MANOEUVRABLE

Man for All Seasons /, . . . 'l..../, **A** a play by Robert Bolt about the life and death of Thomas More

Man Fri-day /, . . 'l..../ 1 a character in the book *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe. He becomes Crusoe's servant and companion after Crusoe saves him from being killed by CANNIBALS. 2 also **man Friday** a loyal and trusted male servant –compare GIRL FRIDAY

man-ful /'mænfəl/ *adj* brave; determined: *He made man-ful efforts to move the heavy furniture, but failed.* – ~ *ly adv*

man-ga-nese /'mæŋgənɪz/ *n* [U] a greyish-white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT) used in making glass, steel, etc.

mange /meɪndʒ/ *n* [U] a skin disease of animals, esp. dogs and cats, that results in the loss of areas of hair or fur –see also MANGY

man-gel-wur-zel /'mæŋgəl ,wɜ:zəl||-zɪr-/ also **mangel** *AmE*– *n* a vegetable with a large round root which can be eaten, often grown on farms as cattle food

man-ger /'meɪndʒəʀ/ *n* a long container, open at the top, in which food is placed for horses and cattle –see also **dog in the manger** (DOG¹)

► **CULTURAL NOTE** According to the Bible, Jesus was born in a STABLE and laid in a manger as a bed because there were no empty rooms in the town. ◀

mange-tout /,mɒŋz'tu:z||,mɑ:z-/ also **mangetout pea** /, . . 'l..../ *BrE* || **snow pea** /'l..../ *AmE*– *n* a sort of PEA whose covering is eaten as well as its seeds

man-gle¹ /'mæŋgəl/ *v* [T] 1 [often *pass.*] to tear or cut to pieces; crush: *After the accident they tried to identify the victims, but the bodies were too badly mangled to be recognized.* | (fig.) *The newspaper gave a very mangled version (=full of mistakes) of what happened.* 2 to pass (clothes, etc.) through a mangle

mangle² *n* a machine with rollers turned by a handle between which water is pressed from clothes, sheets, etc.,

that are passed through, esp. of a kind used before modern electric washing machines were invented –compare WRINGER

man-go /'mæŋgəʊ/ *n -goes or -gos* a tropical fruit with a thin skin and sweet yellow-coloured flesh around a long hard seed –see picture at FRUIT

man-grove /'mæŋgrəʊv/ *n* a tropical tree which grows on muddy land and near water and puts down new roots from its branches: *a mangrove swamp*

Mangrove Club /'l..../ [the] a social club and CAFE in Notting Hill, W London which was a popular meeting place in the 1970s and 1980s esp. for young black people

mang-y /'meɪndʒi/ *adj* 1 suffering from the disease of MANGE 2 *infml* of bad appearance because of loss of hair, as in MANGE: *a mangy carpet* (=old and with bare areas) –*ily adv*

man-han-dle /'mænhændl/ *v* [T] 1 to move by using the force of the body: *We manhandled the piano up the stairs.* 2 *derog* to handle (a person) roughly, using force: *He complained that the guard manhandled him unnecessarily.*

Man-hat-tan /mæn'hætɪn/ an island in New York Bay at the mouth of the Hudson River –see colour map on page 1376

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Manhattan is the business and CULTURAL centre of New York City. The business area is centred on Wall Street on the southern end, where the STOCK EXCHANGE and the World Trade Centre are. Fifth Avenue has many expensive shops and department stores. There are many theatres near or on Broadway, and Manhattan has several important MUSEUMS, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which is on the edge of Central Park, a very large green area in the middle of Manhattan island. Harlem, at the north end of Central Park, has cheap housing, but other places in Manhattan are very expensive to live in. Often when people say they have been to New York they mean that they have been to Manhattan. The SKYLINE (the way the buildings look from a distance) of Manhattan is famous. –see also MADISON AVENUE, GREENWICH VILLAGE, TIMES SQUARE ◀

Manhattan Project /'l..../ [the] the secret American scientific plan established in 1942 to develop an ATOM BOMB –see LOS ALAMOS

man-hole /'mænhəʊl/ *n* an opening, usu. with a cover, on or near a road, through which someone can go down to a place where underground pipes and wires can be examined, repaired, etc.

man-hood /'mænhud/ *n* [U] 1 the condition or period of time of being a man, as opposed to being a boy or female 2 *fml or lit* all the men of a nation: *America lost the flower (=best part) of its young manhood in the war.* 3 *euph* the sexual powers of a man –compare WOMANHOOD

man-hour /'mæn-ʌʊəʀ/ *n* (a measure of) the amount of work done by one person in one hour

man-hunt /'mænhʌnt/ *n* a search for a wanted person, esp. a criminal: *The police are conducting an extensive man-hunt for the murderer.*

ma-ni-a /'meɪniə/ *n* [C (for);U] 1 *tech* a (dangerous) disorder of the mind: *Kleptomania is a mania for stealing things.* 2 *infml* (often in *comb.*) a desire or interest so strong that it seems mad: *She has a mania for (driving) fast cars.* | *He's got motorcycle mania.* | *discomania*

ma-ni-ac /'meɪniæk/ *n* 1 a person (thought to be) suffering from (a) mania 2 *infml* a wild thoughtless person: *Don't drive so fast, you maniac; you'll kill us all!*

ma-ni-a-cal /mə'naiəkəl/ *adj* of or like a maniac: *maniacal laughter* – ~ *ly /kli/ adv*

man-ic /'mænik/ *adj* 1 *tech* of or suffering from mania: *manic depression/tidiness* 2 very excited; wild in behaviour

manic-de-pres-sive /, . . 'l..../ *n, adj* (a person) suffering from an illness in which they have continual changes of feeling, states of great joyful excitement being followed by sad hopelessness

man-i-cure¹ /'mæni'kjʊəʀ/ *n* [C;U] (a) treatment for the hands and esp. the fingernails, including cleaning, cutting, etc. –compare PEDICURE

manicure² *v* [T] to give a manicure to (the hands): (fig.) *a manicured garden* (=very tidy, with neat edges, etc.)

manicure set /'l..../ *n* a set of small tools for cleaning, cutting, and shaping a person's nails

man-i-cur-ist /'mænɪkjʊərɪst/ *n* a person whose job is to manicure hands

man-i-fest¹ /'mænɪfest/ *adj fml* very plain to see or clear to the mind: *Fear was manifest on his face.* | *their manifest failure to modernize the country's industries* — **ly** *adv*: *manifestly untrue*

manifest² *v* [T (in)] *fml* to show (something) plainly: *The disease typically manifests itself in a high fever and chest pains.* | *Her actions manifested a complete disregard for personal safety.* | *Their concern is manifested mainly in fine speeches, rather than in practical solutions.*

manifest³ *n tech* a list of goods carried, esp. on a ship

man-i-fes-ta-tion /,mænɪfe'steɪʃən/ *n* 1 [U] *fml* the act of showing or making clear and plain 2 [C] *fml* anything said or done which clearly shows or is proof of a fact, situation, feeling, belief, etc.: *This latest outbreak of violence is a clear manifestation of the growing discontent in the area.* 3 [C] an appearance, or other sign of presence, of a spirit

Manifest Des-ti-ny /,... '.../ *n* [U] the idea in the 19th century that the US could move into and settle most of North America because God had planned that it would do so

man-i-fes-to /,mænɪ'festəʊ/ *n* -tos or -toes a usu. written statement making public the beliefs and intentions of a ruler or group of people, esp. a political party

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain, the main political parties produce a manifesto before each general election, saying what they will do if they are elected: *The Labour Party manifesto for the next general election pledges to reduce unemployment.* — compare **PLATFORM** ◀

man-i-fold¹ /'mænɪfəʊld/ *adj fml* many in number and/or kind: *The problems facing the government are manifold.* | *her manifold talents*

manifold² *n tech* an arrangement of several pipes, esp. one that allows gases to enter or escape from a car engine: *an exhaust manifold* — see picture at **ENGINE**

man-i-kin, **manni-** /'mænɪkɪn/ *n* 1 a little man; **DWARF** 2 a figure of the human body used for art or teaching medical students

ma-nil-a, **-nil-la** /mə'nɪlə/ *n* [U] (sometimes *cap.*) 1 strong brown paper: *a manila envelope* 2 also **manila hemp** /... '.../ — a plant material used in making rope

Manila a city and port, the capital of the Philippines

Man-i-low /'mænɪləʊ, -nəl-/ **Bar-ry** /'bæri/ (1946–) an American popular music singer and songwriter, known for his love songs and esp. popular with women

Man in the Iron Mask /,... '... '.../ [*the*] a prisoner in the Bastille, Paris, who died in 1703. His face was always kept hidden by a MASK, and it was thought that he might be a brother of Louis XIV, but this is now considered unlikely.

man-i-oc /'mænɪɒk/ *n* [C;U] CASSAVA

ma-nip-u-late /mə'nɪpjʊleɪt/ *v* [T] 1 *usu. derog* to control or influence for one's own purposes: *He adores his sister and she manipulates him shamelessly.* | *He accused the government of manipulating public opinion.* 2 to work with skilful use of the hands: *Her dislocated shoulder was carefully manipulated back into place.* — **-lation** *n* /mə'nɪpjʊ'leɪʃən/ [C;U] : *skilful manipulation of the figures/the statistics* — **-lative** /mə'nɪpjʊ'leɪtɪv/ *adj*

Man-i-to-ba /mænɪ'təʊbə/ a PROVINCE in central Canada

man-i-tou /'mænɪtu:/ *n* [U] a SUPERNATURAL force thought by the Algonquian Indians of North America to exist throughout the natural world

Man-i-tou-lin /,mænɪ'tu:lɪn/ a large island in Lake Huron, Canada, the largest island surrounded by fresh (=not sea) water in the world

man jack /,... '.../ *n infml*, esp. *pomp* or *humor* every man jack everyone; each person in a group: *We'll only succeed if every man jack of us works his hardest.*

man-kind /,mæn'kaɪnd/ *n* [U+*sing./pl.* *v*] the human race, both men and women: *for the good of all mankind* — compare **HUMANKIND**, **WOMANKIND**; see **MAN** (USAGE)

man-ky /'mæŋki/ *adj BrE dial* or *infml* nasty and dirty

Man-ley /'mænli/, **Mi-chael** /'maɪkəl/ (1924–) a Jamaican politician, Prime Minister, and leader of the People's National Party

man-ly /'mænli/ *adj apprec* having qualities (believed to be)

typical of or suitable to a man: *a deep manly voice* | *The boy walked with a confident manly stride.* — compare **MAN-NISH**, **WOMANLY** — **-liness** *n* [U]

man-made /,... '.../ *adj* 1 produced by people; not existing in nature: *The lake is man-made; there used to be a valley here until they dammed the river.* 2 (of a material) not made from natural substances, like wool or cotton, but from combinations of chemicals; **SYNTHETIC**: *Nylon is a man-made fibre.* — opposite **natural**

Mann /mæn/, **Thomas** (1875–1955) a German writer who won the Nobel prize for literature in 1929. His books include *Death in Venice* and *Doctor Faustus*.

man-na /'mænə/ *n* [U] the food which according to the Bible was provided by God for the Israelites in the desert after their escape from Egypt: (fig.) *That gift of money was manna from heaven.* (=provided great and unexpected help)

man-ne-quin /'mænɪkɪn/ *n* 1 a figure of the human body used for showing clothes in shop windows; **DUMMY** (2) 2 *old-fash* a person, usu. a woman, who is employed to wear new clothes and show them to possible buyers; **MODEL**

man-ner /'mænər/ *n* 1 [C *usu. sing.*] *rather fml* the way or method in which something is done or happens: *I agree it had to be done, but not in such an offensive manner.* | *a meal prepared in the Japanese manner* | *a painting in the manner of the early Impressionists* (=as they would have painted it) 2 [S] a personal way of acting or behaving towards other people: *He has a pleasant manner* | *her brisk, businesslike manner* 3 [S+of] *old use* kind or sort (of person or thing): *What manner of son can treat his mother so badly?* 4 **all manner** of every kind of: *The guests were served with all manner of food and drink.* 5 (as) **to the manner born** in a natural way, as if one is used to (something, esp. social position) from birth: *She played the queen as to the manner born.* 6 **in a manner of speaking** (used for making something seem less forceful than the words appear) if one may express it this way 7 **not by any manner of means** not at all; not to any degree 8 **-mannered** /mænəd/ *adj* having **MANNERS** of the stated kind: *good-mannered* | *bad-mannered* — see also **MANNERS**

man-nered /'mænəd/ *adj fml* having an unnatural way of behaving; **AFFECTED**: *a mannered way of speaking*

man-ner-is-m /'mænərɪzəm/ *n* 1 [C] *sometimes derog* a particular and esp. odd way of behaving, speaking, etc., that has become a habit: *She has this strange mannerism of pinching her ear when she talks.* 2 [U] the use of unnatural ways of representing things in art, according to a set of styles

man-ners /'mænəz/ *n* [P] 1 (polite or generally accepted) social habits or ways of behaving: *His parents obviously didn't teach him (good) manners.* | *It's bad manners to eat like that.* — compare **CHIVALRY**, **COURTESY**, **ETIQUETTE**, **TABLE MANNERS** 2 *fml* social behaviour or ways of living, esp. of a nation or group of people

man-nish /'mænɪʃ/ *adj derog* (of a woman) like a man in character, behaviour, or appearance — compare **MANLY** — **ly** *adv* — **-ness** *n* [U]

ma-noeu-vra-ble *BrE* || **maneuverable** *AmE* /mə'nʊvərəbəl/ *adj* easy to move, direct, or esp. turn: *a very light and manoeuvrable car* — **-bility** /mə'nʊvərə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

ma-noeu-vre¹ *BrE* || **maneuver** *AmE* /mə'nʊvər/ *n* 1 [*often pl.*] a large military movement or operation, esp. done for training purposes: *military/naval manoeuvres* | *The regiment is abroad on manoeuvres.* 2 a skilful or carefully planned process intended to deceive, to gain an advantage, to get out of a difficult position, etc.: *There were secret manoeuvres to get him removed from the job.* | *We're well below budget on this project so there's plenty of room for manoeuvre.* (=to spend more time, try new methods, etc.)

manoeuvre² *BrE* || **maneuver** *AmE* — *v* [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj+adv/prep*] to move or turn, esp. skilfully: *The car manoeuvres very well in wet weather.* (=it is easy to control its direction) | *It was difficult to manoeuvre the piano through the door.* | (fig.) *By secretly buying company shares he manoeuvred himself into a controlling position.* — see also **OUTMANOEUVRE**

man of let-ters /,... '.../ *n fml* or *pomp* a writer whose work is highly respected

man of straw /, · · ' / *n* **1** *esp. BrE* a person of weak character, esp. one who is unable to make decisions **2** also **straw man** *esp. AmE* an imaginary opponent whose arguments can easily be defeated

man-of-war /, · · ' / also **man-o'-war** — *n old use* a warship in the navy — see also PORTUGUESE MAN-OF-WAR

ma-nom-e-ter /mə'nɒmɪtəʳ/ — 'nɑː- / *n* an instrument for measuring the pressure of gases — **tric** /,mænə'metrɪk- / — **trically** /kli/ *adv*

man-or /'mænəʳ/ *n* **1** the land belonging to a nobleman (the **lord of the manor**) under the FEUDAL system, some of which he kept for his own use, the rest being rented to farmers who paid by giving services, esp. labour, and part of the crops they grew **2** a large house with land **3 BrE sl** a police area **b** an area that one lives or works in or knows well — **~ial** /mə'nɔːriəl/ *adj*: *manorial lands*

manor house /' · · / *n* the house in which the owner of manorial land lives

man-pow-er /'mæn,pauəʳ/ *n* [U] the number of workers needed for a certain type of work: *The police are seriously short of manpower.*

man-qué /'mɒŋkeɪ||mɑːŋ'keɪ/ *adj* [after *n*] who could have been but failed to be or did not become (something): *Our doctor paints beautiful pictures; I think he's really an artist manqué.*

man-sard /'mænsɑːd||-ɑːrd/ also **mansard roof** /' · · - / *n* a roof with a lower and upper part, the lower having a steeper slope

manse /mæns/ *n* a house belonging to **a** a Church of Scotland CLERGYMAN **b** a Methodist or Nonconformist CLERGYMAN

Man-sell /'mænsəl/, **Ni-gel** /'naɪdʒəl/ (1954–) an English motor-racing driver, very successful in the 1980s and 1990s

man-ser-vant /'mæn,sɜːvənt||-ɜːr- / *n esp. old use* a male servant, esp. one who attends personally on a man; VALET — compare MAIDSERVANT

Mans-field /'mænsfiːld/, **Jayne** /dʒeɪn/ (1933–67) an American actress famous for her long BLONDE hair and large breasts. Her best-known film was *The Girl Can't Help It*.

Mansfield, Kath-e-rine /'kæθəˌrɪn/ (1888–1923) a writer born in New Zealand who lived in England. She is well-known esp. for her short stories.

man-sion /'mænfən/ *n* a large house, usu. belonging to a wealthy person — see HOUSE (USAGE)

Mansion House /, · · ' / [the] a large house in London, the official home of the Lord Mayor of London, where official dinners are held

man-sions /'mænfənz/ *n* [P] *BrE (usu. cap.)* (in names of buildings) a building containing flats: *Flat 14, Stirling Mansions*

man-sized /' · · / also **man-size** — *adj* [A] *infml* (esp. used in advertising) large enough for a man: *man-sized paper handkerchiefs* | *a man-sized helping of food*

man-slaugh-ter /'mæn,slɔːtəʳ/ *n* [U] *law* the crime of killing a person illegally (ILLEGAL) but not intentionally: *The driver was arrested on a charge of manslaughter.* — compare MURDER¹ (1)

Man-son /'mænsən/, **Charles** (1956–) an American who with three others was found guilty of the murders of Sharon Tate and six other people in Los Angeles in 1969. Manson had a group of followers he called his “family” who took drugs with him and who thought that he was a kind of religious leader.

man-tel-piece /'mæntlpiːs/ also **man-tel** /'mæntl/ — *n* a frame surrounding a fireplace, esp. the part on top which can be used as a shelf: *photographs on the mantelpiece* — see picture at FIREPLACE

man-tel-shelf /'mæntlʃelf/ *n* -shelves /ʃelvz/ the top part of a mantelpiece, forming a shelf

man-til-la /mæn'tɪlə/ *n* a decorative piece of thin material worn as a SHAWL by Spanish women, covering the head and falling onto the shoulders

man-tis /'mæntɪs/ *n* see PRAYING MANTIS and see picture at INSECT

man-tle¹ /'mæntl/ *n* [usu. sing.] **1** a loose article of outer clothing without SLEEVES, worn in former times, like a CLOAK: (fig.) *a mantle of snow on the trees* **2** general or official recognition, esp. of a person's importance or

influence: *Now that he is dead, she has taken over his mantle as the leading scholar in this field.* **3** a small cover with holes in it put over the flame of a gas or oil lamp to make it give more light

mantle² *v* [T] *lit* to cover: *Snow mantled the trees.*

Mantle, Mickey (1931–) a famous BASEBALL player, remembered for his batting (BAT² (2)) ability

man-to-man /, · · ' / *adj* [A] *infml* open and honest; without unnecessary formality: *man-to-man discussions* — **man-to-man** *adv*: *I think I should talk to him about it, man-to-man.*

man-tra /'mæntɹə/ *n* **1** a piece of holy writing in the Hindu religion esp. from the Vedas **2** in Hinduism and Buddhism a word or sound repeated again and again as a prayer or to help MEDITATION (=deep religious thought)

man-u-al¹ /'mænjuəl/ *adj* of or using the hands: *manual dexterity* | *manual work* — **~ly** *adv*: *You have to change gear manually in this car; it's not automatic.*

manual² *n* a (small) book giving information about how to do something, esp. how to use a machine: *a car manual* — compare HANDBOOK

manual la-bour /, · · · ' / *n* work done with the hands and not needing much thought or skill, e.g. factory work. It is generally thought of as the lowest kind of work.

manual work-er /' · · · , · / *n* a person whose job involves manual labour — see also BLUE-COLLAR

Man-uel /mæn'wel/ an amusing character in the popular British television programme *Fawlty Towers*. Manuel is a Spanish waiter who does not speak or understand much English so he is always asking ¿Qué? (= (Spanish for) What?) People in Britain sometimes copy this when they do not understand something and want to be funny. — see also FAWLTY TOWERS

man-u-fac-ture¹ /,mænɪʃ'fæktʃəʳ/ *v* [T] **1** to make or produce esp. by machinery or other industrial processes and usu. in large quantities: *This firm manufactures cars.* | *manufactured goods* | *the decline in jobs in the manufacturing sector* (=in the branch of business that manufactures goods) **2** to invent (an untrue story, reason, etc.): *You'll have to manufacture a good excuse if you don't go to your sister's wedding!*

manufacture² *n* [U] manufacturing: *The manufacture of these very small components is expensive.*

man-u-fac-tur-er /,mænɪʃ'fæktʃərəʳ/ also **manufacturers** *pl.* — *n* a firm that manufactures goods: *The washing machine didn't work, so we sent it back to the manufacturers.*

Man U-nit-ed /, · · ' / see MANCHESTER UNITED

ma-nure¹ /mə'njuəʳ||mə'nʊər/ *n* [U] waste matter from animals which is put on the land to make it produce better crops: *a heap of manure* — compare FERTILIZER

manure² *v* [T] to put manure on: *manuring the roses*

man-u-script /'mænɪʃskɪpt/ *n* **1** the first copy of a book or piece of writing, written by hand or typed before being printed: *I read his novel in manuscript.* **2** a handwritten book, from the time before printing was invented: *a valuable medieval manuscript*

Manx /mæŋks/ *adj* of the Isle of Man, its people, or the Celtic language originally spoken there

Manx cat /, · · ' / *n* a type of cat from the Isle of Man which has no tail

man-y /'meni/ *determiner, pron* **1** a large number (of); more than several but less than most: *Many people find this kind of film unpleasant.* | *The apples had been stored so badly that many (of them) had rotted.* | *There are so many (nice things) that I find it hard to choose.* | *I haven't got as many as you.* | *You have (far) too many books on that shelf.* | *Not many of the children will pass the exam.* | *He bought four tickets, which was one too many.* (=he only needed three) | *They visited five countries in as many days.* (=in five days) | *He ate three and said he could eat as many again.* (=three more) | *This school has twice as many students as my last one.* | *There are many, many reasons against it.* | *How many letters are there in the alphabet?* | *He invited all his many friends to the party.* | (*fml*) *Many a good climber* (=many good climbers) *has met his death on this mountain.* **2** a good many quite a large number (of): *We received a good many offers of support.* **3** a great many a very large number (of): *There are a great many reasons why you shouldn't do it.* **4**

'many's the time/day, etc., (that) there have been many times/days, etc., (that): *Many's the time I've wondered what happened to her.* **5 one too many** *infml* too much (alcohol) to drink: *Don't pay any attention to him — he's had one too many.* **6 one too many for old-fash** *infml* clever enough to beat (someone) — opposite **few**; compare **MORE**, **MOST**; see also **MUCH**, **in so many words** (**WORD**¹)

▷ **USAGE** Although **many** can be used alone in simple statements in the same way as **a lot of**, it is more formal and not usual in conversation: *He has many volumes in his library.* | *He has a lot of books.* | *Many people have expressed this opinion.* | *A lot of people think this.* ◀

many-sid-ed /ˌmɒniˈsaɪd/ *adj* **1** with many sides **2** with many different qualities or interests — **~ness** *n* [U]

man-za-nil-la /ˌmænzəˈnɪlə/ *n* [U] a type of pale, dry SHERRY (=strong wine) from Spain, usu. drunk before a meal

Mao-is-m /ˈmaʊɪzəm/ *n* [U] belief in and practice of the principles of Mao Tse-tung, the first leader of the People's Republic of China. Mao believed that SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONS would develop first in underdeveloped countries by workers on the land, not by industrial workers. He thought it was important to give encouragement and moral education to people to help them face their problems and build a new society. His ideas influenced many people outside China esp. in Third World countries. A number of small Maoist groups were established in western countries during the 1960s and early 1970s. — **-ist** *adj, n*

Mao-ri /ˈmaʊri/ *n* [C; the+P] (a member of) the original peoples of New Zealand, now only a small part of the population. In the 19th century, after wars with the European settlers and the building of towns, their numbers were greatly reduced and their old way of life was largely destroyed. **Maori** *adj*

Mao Tse-tung /ˌmaʊˈtseiˈtʊŋ/ also **Mao Ze-dong** /ˌmaʊˈdʒəˈduŋ/, **Mao, chairman Mao**— (1893–1976) a Chinese Communist leader. During the LONG MARCH (1934–35) to escape nationalist forces, he became leader of the Chinese Communist Party and in 1949, the first chairman of the People's Republic of China. He introduced the GREAT LEAP FORWARD in 1958 and the CULTURAL REVOLUTION (1966–69). When he became ill in the 1970s, he was influenced by his wife, Jiang Qing and the GANG OF FOUR. At the height of his power and success, he was greatly respected by the Chinese people who, at public meetings, waved copies of his little red book *The Thoughts of Chairman Mao*. His ideas influenced many people around the world.

map¹ /mæp/ *n* **1** [(of)] a representation of (part of) the Earth's surface as if seen from above, showing the shape of countries, the position of towns, the height of land, the rivers, etc.: *a map of the world/of Europe/of central London* | *a road map* | *If you don't know where it is, look it up on the map.* | *They got lost because they couldn't read (=understand) the map.* **2 off the map:** **a** (of a place) far away and unreachable **b** *infml* not in existence: *The bomb wiped their village off the map.* **3 (put something) on the map** *infml* (to cause someone or something to be) considered important: *Getting the part in the TV serial put me on the map, and a lead role in a film soon followed.* —see also **RELIEF MAP**

map² *v* -pp- [T] **1** to make a map of: *to map the surface of the moon* **2** [(onto)] *tech* to represent the pattern of (something) on something else

map *sthg.* ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to plan in detail in advance: *The girl's talent was spotted early, and a busy future was soon mapped out for her.* [+wh-] *We're mapping out where to go for our holidays.*

ma-ple /ˈmeɪpl/ *n* a tree with many-pointed leaves which grows in the northern half of the world —see picture at **TREE**. A red maple leaf is used to represent Canada, and appears on the Canadian flag.

maple syr-up /ˌmæplˈsɪr/ *n* [U] a sweet sticky liquid, obtained from some kinds of maple tree, which is eaten with WAFLES or PANCAKES, esp. in the US and Canada

map-ping /ˈmæpɪŋ/ *n* *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) an act of fitting one member of a SET³ (10) exactly onto a member of another set

Ma-pu-to /məˈpuːtəʊ/ a port on the Indian ocean, the capital city of Mozambique

mar /mɑːr/ *v* -rr- [T] *esp. lit* to make less perfect or complete; spoil: *The new power station mars the beauty of the countryside.*

Mar. *written abbrev. for:* March

mar-a-bou, -bout /ˈmæɪbəʊ/ *n* a large African STORK (=a long-legged bird)

ma-ra-ca /məˈrækə/ -ˈrɑː-, -ˈræ-/ *n* [usu pl.] either of a pair of hollow shells with small objects, such as stones, inside them that are shaken to provide a strong beat in Latin American music

Mar-a-don-a /ˌmæɪəˈdɒnə/ -ˈdɑː-, **Di-e-go** /diˈeɪɡəʊ/ (1960–) an Argentinian football player who helped his country win the World Cup in 1986. He is considered to be one of the best players in the world. In Britain, he is often remembered for the match between Argentina and England in the World Cup in 1986 when he scored (SCORE) a GOAL which many people thought should not have been allowed because he appeared to use his hand. After the match, when he was asked about it, Maradona said that it was “the hand of God”. England lost the match.

mar-a-schi-no /ˌmæɪəˈskiːnəʊ, -ˈʃiː-/ *n* -nos (*sometimes cap.*) **1** [U] a sweet alcoholic drink (LIQUEUR) made from a kind of black CHERRY (=a small fruit) **2** [C] a sugar-covered CHERRY which has been kept in this or a similar drink, used for decorating drinks and sweet cakes and dishes

mar-a-thon¹ /ˈmæɪəθən/ -θɑːn/ *n* **1** (*often cap.*) a running race of about 26 miles or 42 kilometres (from the place-name of a Greek victory in 490 BC. A messenger ran this distance to Athens to report it.)

▷ **CULTURAL NOTE** Many big cities, e.g. London and Boston, have their own marathon every year which thousands of runners enter, both famous and ordinary people. The marathon is also an Olympic event: *a marathon runner* ◀

2 an activity that tests one's power over a long time: *The meeting was a bit of a marathon.* | *a dance marathon*

marathon² *adj* [A] very long or needing much effort for a long time: *a marathon speech of six hours* | *It was a marathon job addressing all those envelopes.*

ma-raud-ing /məˈrɔːdɪŋ/ *adj* moving around in search of something to steal, burn, or destroy: *They were attacked by marauding tribesmen.* — **-er** *n*

Mar-bel-la /mɑːˈbeɪlə/ mɑːr-/ *n* a port and popular holiday place on the E coast of Spain

mar-ble /ˈmɑːbəl/ mɑːr-/ *n* **1** [U] a sort of white or irregularly coloured LIMESTONE that is hard, cold to touch, smooth when polished, and used for buildings, STATUES, gravestones, etc. **2** [C] a small hard ball of usu. coloured glass used in the game of MARBLES

Marble Arch /ˌmɑːbəl/ a large white stone arch in central London, where a number of big roads meet: *Turn left at Marble Arch and go up Edgware Road.*

mar-bled /ˈmɑːbəld/ mɑːr-/ *adj* marked with irregular colours and lines like some kinds of MARBLE (1)

mar-bles /ˈmɑːbəlz/ mɑːr-/ *n* **1** [U] a game in which small hard glass balls are rolled along the ground towards each other; it is usu. played by small children, esp. boys **2** [P] *humor* one's reason or good sense: *He hasn't got all his marbles/has lost his marbles.* (=is mad) —see also **ELGIN MARBLES**

mar-ca-site /ˈmɑːkəsɪt/ mɑːr-/ *n* [U] a metal that can be cut and polished to look rather like diamonds and is used for making a shiny sort of cheap jewellery

Mar-ceau /mɑːˈsəʊ/ mɑːr-, **Mar-cel** /mɑːˈsel/ mɑːr-/ (1923–) a French MIME artist, famous for his white-faced character, Bip. He has also produced plays using mime and dance.

march¹ /mɑːtʃ/ mɑːrtʃ/ *v* **1** [I] to walk with firm regular steps like a soldier: *The soldiers marched along the road.* | “Squad, quick march!” (=start marching) *shouted the sergeant-major.* | *She was very angry and marched out (of the shop).* | (fig.) *Time marches on.* (=advances regularly and quickly and cannot be turned back) **2** [T] to cover (a distance) by marching: *We'd marched 20 miles by sunset.* **3** [T+obj+adv/prep] to force to go, esp. on foot: *The police marched him off to prison.* —see also **FROG-MARCH** — **~er** *n*: *thousands of marchers on a demonstration*

march² *n* **1** [C;U] (an act of) marching: *The soldiers had*

a long march in front of them to reach the camp before nightfall. | They had to make a **forced march** (=hurried and tiring march) of three days to reach the safety of the city. | They paraded past at a march. (=marching) | Our armies are **on the march**. (=have started marching) | (fig.) Science is **on the march**. (=is advancing and improving) | (fig.) We cannot resist the march (=regular forward movement) of time. **2** [C] a piece of music played with a regular beat (as if) in time with marching feet —see also WEDDING MARCH **3** [C] the distance covered while marching in a certain (stated) period of time: *Our destination is a day's march away.* **4** [C] an act of walking by a large number of people from one place to another to show their opinions or dissatisfactions: *a peace march* —see also MARCHES, **steal a march on** (STEAL¹)

March (written abbrev. **Mar.**) *n* [C;U] the third month of the year, between February and April: *It happened on March the third/on the third of March/(AmE) on March third.* | *This office opened in March 1991.* | *She started work here last March/the March before last.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** March is the first month of Spring. It is often cold and wet, with strong winds, but is also associated with Spring flowers, esp. DAFFODILS. People sometimes say that "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb", meaning that it begins with cold, windy weather and ends with warmer weather. ◀

mar-ches /'mɑ:tʃɪz/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* [P] (often cap. as part of a name) a border area, esp. between Scotland or Wales and England: *the Welsh Marches*

March Hare /,mɑ: 'hɑ: / [the] a character in Lewis Carroll's book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. He is a mad HARE who talks nonsense —see also ALICE IN WONDERLAND, MAD HATTER, and see colour picture on page 619

marching band /'mɑ: tʃɪŋ bænd/ *n* a group of people playing musical instruments while they walk, all moving their legs at the same time with the beat of the music: *a parade with a marching band* | *She plays the tuba in a marching band.*

marching orders /'mɑ: tʃɪŋ ɔ:dəz/ *BrE* || **walking papers** *AmE* — *n* [P] *infml* official notice that one must leave: *He will get/The boss will give him his marching orders if he keeps being late like this.*

mar-chio-ness /'mɑ: tʃɪə nəs/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* **1** the wife of a MARQUIS **2** a noblewoman with the rank of a MARQUIS

Marchioness [the] a pleasure boat which hit another boat and sank in the river Thames in London in 1989, killing 51 passengers. It had been hired for a private birthday party and most of the people killed were aged 20–30.

March of Dimes /,mɑ: tʃɪv ɒf dɪmz/ [the] an American CHARITY organization which raises money, esp. for DISABLED children

march-past /'mɑ: tʃɪ pɑ:st/ *n* a ceremonial march of soldiers past a person or place of importance

Mar-ci-a-no /,mɑ: sɪ 'ɑ:nəʊ/ || 'mɑ:rsɪ 'ænəʊ/, **Rocky** (1923–69) a famous American BOXER who became the world CHAMPION in 1952. He was never defeated and RETIRED in 1956.

Mar-co-ni /mɑ: 'kəʊni/ || 'mɑ:r-/ , **Gu-gliel-mo** /gʊl 'jelməʊ/ (1874–1937) an Italian inventor who formed the world's first radio company in 1897 and shared the Nobel prize for PHYSICS in 1909

Marco Polo see MARCO POLO

Mar-cos /'mɑ: kɒs/ || 'mɑ:rkəʊs/, **Fer-di-nand** /'fɜ: dɪ nænd/ || 'fɜ:r-/ (1917–89) the president of the Philippines from 1965 until he was forced to leave the country in 1986. He and his wife **Imelda** were very wealthy and known for their expensive way of life.

Marcos, I-mel-da /ɪ 'meldə/ (1930–) the wife of President Marcos of the Philippines, who left the country with him in 1986 and was the subject of legal action for EMBEZZLEMENT (=stealing money placed in one's care) in 1988. She is known for the expensive way of life she had while in the Philippines, and esp. for the very large number of shoes which she bought. In 1991 Imelda returned to the Philippines to try to become president, but she was accused (ACCUSE) of stealing from the people while her husband was in power.

Mar-cu-se /mɑ: 'kuzə/ || 'mɑ:r-/ , **Herbert** (1898–1979) an American thinker and writer on politics, born in Germany, who attracted many followers in America in the 1960s. He wrote about the bad effects on people of modern economics, industry, and science.

Mar-di Gras /,mɑ:di 'grɑ:z/ || 'mɑ:rdi grɑ:z/ (a CARNIVAL period held in some countries on or around the time of) the day before the first day of Lent; SHROVE TUESDAY. In the US, the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, holds a famous Mardi Gras celebration which many people travel to see.

mare /meə/ *n* a female horse or DONKEY —compare STALLION

mare's nest /'mɑ: rɪz/ *n* **1** a discovery which proves to be untrue or valueless; a HOAX **2** *AmE* a situation or place which is very confused or untidy

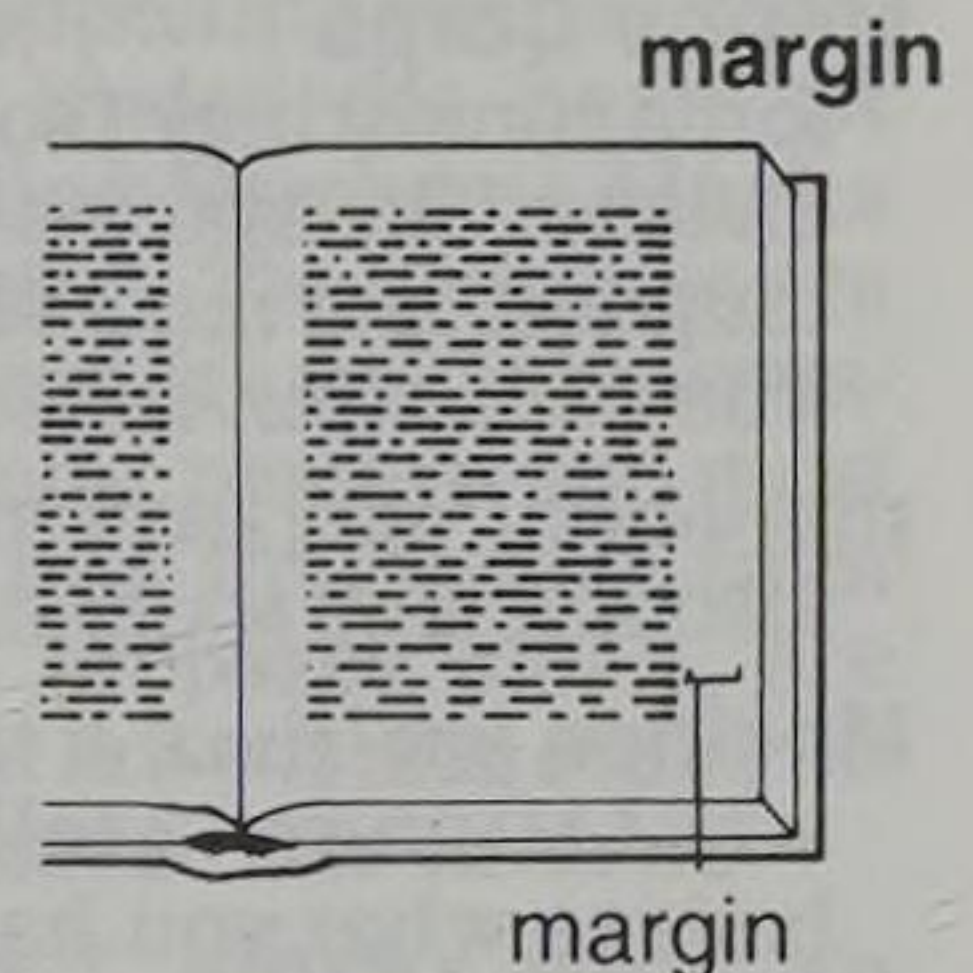
Mar-garet /'mɑ: grət/ || 'mɑ:r-/ , **Princess** (1930–) a British princess, the younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II. She married a photographer, Anthony Armstrong-Jones (later Lord Snowdon) in 1960 and had two children, David (Viscount Linley) and Sarah. She was divorced (DIVORCE) in 1978.

mar-ga-rine /,mɑ: dʒə 'rɪz/ || 'mɑ:rgə- || 'mɑ:rdʒərɪn/ also **marge** /mɑ: dʒ/ || 'mɑ:rdʒ/ *BrE infml* || also **oleo** *AmE* — *n* [U] a food similar to butter, which is made mainly from vegetable fats. Many people now eat margarine instead of butter because they believe that it is healthier, but most people think that butter tastes better. —see also SOFT MARGARINE

mar-ga-ri-ta /,mɑ: gə 'rɪtə/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* *AmE* an alcoholic drink consisting of TEQUILA and LEMON or LIME juice. It is usually served in a glass with salt around the top

Mar-gate /'mɑ: geɪt/ || 'mɑ:r-/ a town on the E coast of England near London, which is a popular place for people from London, esp. WORKING-CLASS people, to go for the day or for their holidays

mar-gin /'mɑ: dʒɪn/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* **1** an area down the side of a page near the edge, where there is no writing or printing: *Someone had scribbled some notes in the margin of the book.* | *a wide/narrow margin* —see picture at TYPEWRITER **2** an amount by which one thing is greater than another: *In the end we won by a decisive margin.* | *We must leave no margin for error.* (=we must make sure there is no chance at all of making a mistake) | *Our profit margin* (=the difference between the buying and selling price of our goods) *is very low.* **3** *lit* an area on the outside edge of a larger area: *on the margin of the forest*



mar-gin-al /'mɑ: dʒɪnəl/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *adj* **1** [A no comp.] (printed or written) on or in the margin of a page: *marginal illustrations/comments* **2** small in importance or amount: *The new law will have only a marginal effect on the lives of most people.* **3** (of land) too poor to produce many crops, and farmed only when there is a special need for additional crops — *~ly adv*: *This year's profits were marginally higher than last year's.*

marginal seat /,mɑ: ... 'sɪt/ also **marginal con-sti-tu-en-cy** /,mɑ: ... 'sɪtɪ/ , **marginal** — *n* *BrE* a SEAT¹ (3) in the British parliament which may be won or lost by a small number of votes, and so is quite likely to pass from the control of one political party to another —compare SAFE SEAT: *MPs in marginal seats were worried by the government's handling of the health service.*

mar-gin-al-ize also **-ise** *BrE* — /'mɑ: dʒɪnəl-aɪz/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *v* [T] to cause (a group of people) to become unimportant and powerless in society: *The decline in manufacturing industry has marginalized the Trade Unions involved in it, who now have far less influence.*

ma-ri-a-chi /mɑ:ri 'ɑ:tʃi/ *n* *Sp* a kind of dance music played esp. in Mexico — *adj*: *a mariachi band*

Mar-ie An-toi-nette /,mæri æntwə'net/ || 'mæ:rɪz, mɑ:ri-/ (1755–93) the queen of France, wife of Louis XVI, who tried to escape the REVOLUTION in 1791 but was caught and imprisoned. In 1793 she was killed by having her head cut off. When she was told that poor people did not have enough bread to eat, she is believed to have said, "Let them eat cake."

Marie Ce-leste /,mæri sɪ 'lest, mɑ:ri- || 'mæ:rɪz-/ [the] a sailing ship that was found in the Atlantic Ocean in 1872, with no one on it. The ship was undamaged, and a table was prepared for a meal. No one knows why the sailors left the ship, or what happened to them.

mar-i-gold /'mæɪˌɡəʊld/ *n* a plant with golden-yellow flowers

mar-i-jua-na, -huana /,mæɪˌdʒ'wænə, -'hwaɪnə/ also **grass, pot infml**— *n* [U] a form of the drug CANNABIS consisting of the dried flowers, stems, and leaves of the Indian HEMP plant, smoked to give pleasure —compare BHANG, HASHISH

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain and in most of the US, the possession or use of marijuana is ILLEGAL but some people think that it should be made legal because it is not considered very harmful, compared with stronger drugs such as HEROIN or COCAINE. It became popular esp. in the 1960s. ◀

ma-rim-ba /mə'rimbə/ *n* a musical instrument like a XYLOPHONE

ma-ri-na /mə'ri:nə/ *n* a small port for pleasure boats

mar-i-nade /,mæɪˌdʒ'neɪd/ *n* [C;U] a mixture of oil, wine, and/or VINEGAR, SPICES, etc., in which meat or fish can be kept before cooking to make it tender and give it a special taste

mar-i-nate /'mæɪˌneɪt/ also **mar-i-nade** /'mæɪˌneɪd/— *v* [T] to keep (meat or fish) in a marinade before cooking

Ma-rin Coun-ty /mə'ri:n 'kaʊnti/ an area just N of San Francisco, California, where many wealthy people live.

ma-rine¹ /mə'ri:n/ *adj* [A] **1** of, near, living in, or obtained from the sea: *marine mammals such as whales and seals* **2** of or for ships and their goods and trade at sea: *marine insurance* | *marine law*

marine² *n* (sometimes *cap.*) a soldier who serves on a naval ship, esp. a member of the Royal Marines or the Marine Corps —see also MERCHANT MARINE

Marine Corps /'· · / *n* also **Marines**— [*the*] a US armed force consisting of soldiers who serve on naval ships and on land. The Marine Corps are often considered to be the toughest and most skilled soldiers in the armed forces. They are often sent into battle first.

mar-i-ner /'mæɪˌnəʳ/ *n* *tech* or *poet* a sailor or seaman —see also ANCIENT MARINER

Ma-rines /mə'ri:nz/ *n* [*the*+P] **1** the Marine Corps **2** the ROYAL MARINES **3** *tell that to the Marines saying* I don't believe what you have just told me

mar-i-o-nette /,mæɪriə'net/ *n* a PUPPET (1)

mar-i-tal /'mæɪˌtəl/ *adj* of marriage — *~ly adv*

marital bliss /,· · · '· / *n* [U] a state of being completely happy which is thought to come with marriage. The phrase is often used humorously to describe young, newly-married people who have not yet experienced any difficulties or had any serious arguments.

marital sta-tus /,· · · '· / *n* [U] an official expression often used on forms to ask whether a person is married or not, or has ever been married: *Marital status: single/married/divorced/separated* (Delete as appropriate)

marital vows /,· · · '· / also **marriage vows**— *n* [P] the solemn promises made by a man and woman when they get married. —see also MARRIAGE

mar-i-time /'mæɪˌtaɪm/ *adj* **1** concerning ships or the sea: *maritime law* | *That country was a great maritime power.* (=had a strong navy) **2** near the sea: *the country's maritime provinces*

mar-jo-ram /'mæɪdʒə'rem||'mæɪr-/ *n* [U] a HERB with sweet-smelling leaves used in cooking

mark¹ /mɑːk||mɑːrk/ *n* **1** [C] something, such as a spot or cut, on a surface that would otherwise be plain or clean: *Do you think these marks in the sand are some kind of message?* | *This mark on your jacket won't come off.* | *His feet left dirty marks all over the floor.* | *The car had left tyre marks in the muddy ground.* | *There wasn't a mark* (=no cuts or signs of blows) *on the dead girl's body.* | (fig.) *The years in prison have left their mark* (=had a lasting effect) *on him/on his character.* —see also BIRTHMARK **2** [C] a figure or printed or written sign which shows something: *Every garment in the shop has a price mark sewn on it.* —see also PUNCTUATION MARK, QUESTION MARK **3** [C *usu. sing.*] a fact or action that is a sign or proof of a quality, feeling, or condition: *As a mark of respect they all stood up when he entered the room.* | *It is a mark of the company's strength that it has recovered so quickly from such a major setback.* **4** [C] esp. BrE || *usu. grade* AmE— a figure, letter, or sign which represents a judgment of the quality of someone's work, behaviour, performance in a competition, etc.: *The highest mark in the test was*

nine out of ten. | (fig.) *I'll give him full marks for trying.* (=I think he tried very hard.) **5** [C] the object or place one aims at: *The bullet was aimed at his head, but luckily it missed its mark.* | (fig.) *Our estimate of the price was rather wide of the mark.* (=not correct or close to the true figure) **6** [*the*] esp. BrE an acceptable level of quality: *Your latest piece of work is not up to/is below the mark.* | (fig.) *I'm not feeling quite up to the mark* (=not very well) *today.* **7** [C] (often *cap. written abbrev. Mk.*) (used esp. with numbers) a particular type of a machine: *The Mark 4 gun is more powerful than the old Mark 3.* **8** [C] (often *cap., written abbrev. Mk.*) (used esp. with numbers) a particular SETTING (2) for a machine, esp. a gas cooker: *Cook for 40 minutes at gas mark 4.* **9** [C] a sign, usu. in the form of a cross, made by someone who cannot write their name **10** *make one's mark (on)* to become successful and influential (in a place or activity): *He certainly made his mark (on the company) while he was here.* **11** *On your marks, get set, go!* (used for starting a running race) **12** *quick/slow off the mark infml* quick/slow in understanding —see also BOOKMARK, LANDMARK

mark² *v* **1** [T] to make a mark or marks on, esp. one that spoils the appearance: *The hot cups have marked the table badly.* | *The disease marked her face for life.* **2** [I] to receive unwanted marks, causing a spoiled appearance: *This table marks very easily; don't put that hot cup on it.* **3** [T] to show the position of: *The cross marks his grave.* | *She was careful to mark her place* (=where she stopped reading) *before she shut the book.* **4** [T] to be typical of; CHARACTERIZE: *She has all the qualities that mark a good nurse.* | *This writer's plays are marked by* (=typically have) *a gentle humour.* **5** [T] esp. BrE || *grade* AmE to give MARKS¹ (4) to: *I've got a pile of exam papers to mark.* **6** [T] to be a sign of: *Today's ceremony marks 100 years of trade between our two countries.* | *The opening of the new factory marked an important stage in the company's development.* **7** [T] BrE to stay close to (an opposing player), esp. in football, so as to prevent them from getting the ball or gaining points **8** [T+obj/wh-] old use to watch or listen to carefully: *Mark what your father is saying, young lady!* **9** *mark time:* a to make the movements of marching while remaining in the same place b to spend time on work, business, etc., without advancing **10** (you) *mark my words!* you will see later that I am right: *He'll get into trouble for doing that, you mark my words!*

mark sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down phr v** [T] **1** [(as)] to note in writing: *The teacher marked him down as absent.* | (fig.) *I marked him down as* (=I thought he probably was) *an American, but he turned out to be a Canadian.* **2** to reduce the price of (goods): *These winter coats have been marked down from £45 to £35.* —see also MARKDOWN **3** to give a lower MARK¹ (4) to: *He/His work was marked down for untidy writing.*

mark sthg. ↔ **off phr v** [T] **1** to make into a separate area by drawing lines **2** to note (a piece of work, for example) as being done, esp. on a list

mark sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out phr v** [T] **1** to draw (an area) with lines: *They marked out the tennis court with white paint.* **2** [(as, for, from)] to show or choose as being likely to become (a successful person) or to gain (success): *His qualities mark him out as a born leader.* | *She seemed marked out for political success from an early age.*

mark sthg. ↔ **up phr v** [T] **1** to increase the price of (goods) —see also MARKUP **2** AmE write notes or instructions on: *Someone had already marked up the alto part of the piece.* | *The manuscript is all marked up for printing.*

mark³ *n* a German unit of money; DEUTSCHMARK

Mark, Saint see SAINT MARK

Mark Antony see ANTONY

mark-down /'mɑːkdaʊn||'mɑːrk-/ *n* the amount by which a price is made lower: *a markdown of £10* | *The markdown price is on the back of the ticket.* —compare MARKUP; see also MARK down (2)

marked /mɑːkt||mɑːrkt/ *adj* **1** very noticeable: *He showed a marked lack of interest.* | *a marked increase/improvement* | *This year's results, in marked contrast to last year's, were very encouraging.* **2** *a marked man* a man who is in danger from a watching enemy — *~ly* /'mɑːkɪdli||'mɑːr-/ *adv*: *They have markedly different approaches to the problem.*

mark-er /'mɑ:kə/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* **1** a tool or pen (**marker pen**) for making marks **2** an object which marks a place: *a book marker* **3** someone who gives MARKS¹ (4) in an exam, competition, etc. **4** an action or statement that makes one's intentions clear: *In refusing the request this time, he has put down a marker for future applicants.*

mar-keṭ /'mɑ:kɪt/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* **1** [C] a building, square, or open place where people meet to buy and sell goods, esp. food and animals: *a fish market* | *a cattle market* | *the market square* | *an antiques market* **2** [C] a gathering of people to buy and sell on certain days at such a place: *There's no market this week.* | *Monday is market day.* **3** [C] an area or country where there is a demand for goods: *They sell mainly to the overseas market/the home market.* | *The sales director wants to open up new markets in the Far East.* **4** [S;U (for)] desire to buy; public demand (for a product, service, skill, etc.): *There's not much of a market for that kind of car.* (=not many people want to buy them) | *The potential market for this product is enormous.* | *He can't find a market for his skills.* (=anyone willing to employ him for them) | (fig.) *Are you in the market for* (=do you want to buy) *a used washing machine?* **5** [C] (the state of) trade in particular goods, or goods in general: *There's great activity in the tea market.* | *The market is rather depressed at the moment.* (=there is not much activity, prices are low, etc.) | *It's a buyer's market* (=prices are favourable for those wishing to buy) *so you ought to keep your shares until it's a seller's market.* | *They are aiming to increase their share of the market.* (=to sell more goods in comparison with others who sell the same goods) **6 on the market** for sale; able to be bought: *the best small car on the market* | *They've put their house on the market.* —see also BLACK MARKET, EC, FLEA MARKET, **the bottom has fallen out of the market** (BOTTOM¹)

market² *v* [T] to offer for sale, esp. by using the skills of advertising and supplying: *The firm markets many types of goods.* | *If the book is properly marketed, it should sell very well.* — **~able** *adj*: *marketable skills/products* — **~er** *n* — **~ability** /'mɑ:kɪtə'bilɪti/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* [U]

market day /'mɑ:kɪdɪ/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* [C;U] a day in the week when a town has a market, usu. once a week: *I usually go into town on market day.* | *Market days in Southall are Wednesday and Saturday.*

market e-con-o-my /'mɑ:kɪt'ekənəmi/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* a system of producing wealth based on the free operation of business and trade without government controls

mar-keṭ-eer /'mɑ:kɪtɪə/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* **1** a person who supports a certain sort of system for buying and selling: *a free marketeer* **2** (in Britain) (*cap.*) a person who has a particular view on Britain's membership of the EEC: *anti-Marketeer/pro-Marketeer*

market forc-es /'mɑ:kɪt'fɔ:s/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* [P] the free operation of business and trade without any controls by government, so that prices and wage levels depend on the level of demand. Capitalist systems are based on the belief that this is the best way to operate.

market gar-den /'mɑ:kɪt'gɑ:dən/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* [*BrE*] **truck farm** *AmE* — *n* an area for growing vegetables and fruit for sale — **~er** *n* — **~ing** *n* [U]

mar-keṭ-ing /'mɑ:kɪtɪŋ/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* [U] **1** the branch of business concerned with advertising, PUBLICITY (2), etc.: *a job in marketing* | *marketing strategies* | *the marketing director* **2** *AmE* the act of doing one's shopping, esp. for food: *I have to go marketing in the morning.* | *When will you do the marketing?*

market lead-er /'mɑ:kɪt'li:də/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* a service or product which sells better than any other of its kind

market mak-er /'mɑ:kɪt'meɪkə/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* *tech* a dealer buying and selling securities (SECURITY (5)); usu. buying in large numbers and selling in smaller amounts

market niche /'mɑ:kɪt'ni:tʃ/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* a space for a product or service to fill in the area of buying and selling: *Body Shop found a market niche for cosmetics not tested on animals.*

mar-keṭ-place /'mɑ:kɪt'pleɪs/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* **1** [C] an open area, esp. a square, where a market is held **2** [*the*] the area of business activity which involves buying and selling: *We don't know if this new product will be successful until we test it out in the marketplace.*

market price /'mɑ:kɪt'praɪs/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* the price which buyers will actually pay for something

market re-search /'mɑ:kɪt'reʃə/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* [U] the process of collecting information about what people buy and why, usu. done by companies so that they can find ways of increasing sales: *We know the product will sell well because we've done a lot of market research on it.*

market share /'mɑ:kɪtʃeə/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* the amount of a particular type of goods or services sold by a company when compared with the total amount of such goods etc. sold: *We are aiming to increase our market share in home computers.*

market town /'mɑ:kɪt'taʊn/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* a town where a market is held, esp. one for buying and selling sheep, cattle, etc.

market val-ue /'mɑ:kɪt'vælju:/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* the value of a product, esp. a house; based on the price that people are willing to pay for it rather than the cost of making or building it

mark-ing /'mɑ:kɪŋ/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* [C *usu. pl.*; U] (any of a set of) coloured marks on an animal's skin, fur, or on a bird's feathers: *The leopard has beautiful markings.*

Mar-kov /'mɑ:kɒv, -ɒf/ || 'mɑ:rka:f, -ɔ:f/, **Geor-gi** /'gjo:gi/ || 'gjo:r-/ (1929–78) a Bulgarian who disagreed with the government of Bulgaria and came to live in Britain. He worked for the BBC radio World Service and was killed when poison was put into his leg from the end of an UMBRELLA. It is said that the Bulgarian Secret Service were responsible for his murder.

Mar-ko-va /'mɑ:kəʊvə/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n*, **Dame A-li-ci-a** /ə'li:ʃiə/ (1910–) an English BALLET dancer, famous for the grace and beauty of her dancing, esp. in the ballet *Giselle*

Marks and Spen-er /'mɑ:ks ənd 'spensə/ || 'mɑ:ks-/ *tdmk* one of a group of very well-known department stores found in most large towns in Britain selling clothes, food, and other goods for the home under the name **St Michael**; it is sometimes just called **Marks** or **Marks and Sparks**, or abbreviated to **M & S**. Their clothes are generally considered to be of good quality and at reasonable prices, but not to include the most modern and most extreme fashions. Many people buy underwear from there. Their food products, esp. prepared meals, are thought to be very good quality and are popular esp. with MIDDLE-CLASS people who do not have time to cook.

marks-man /'mɑ:ksmən/ || 'mɑ:ks-/ *n*, **marks-wom-an** /-,wʊmən/ *fem.* — *n* **-men** /mən/ a person who can shoot well with a gun: *an expert marksman*

marks-man-ship /'mɑ:ksmənʃɪp/ || 'mɑ:ks-/ *n* [U] the quality or ability of a marksman; skill in shooting

mark-up /'mɑ:k-ʌp/ || 'mɑ:rk-/ *n* the amount by which a price is raised by a seller to pay for costs and allow for profit: *a markup of 20% on cigarettes in the hotel shop* —compare MARKDOWN; see also MARK UP

marl /mɑ:l/ || 'mɑ:rl/ *n* [U] a soil formed of clay and LIME

Marl-bo-ro /'mɑ:lbərə/ || 'mɑ:rlbərə/ *tdmk* the name of a kind of American cigarettes. Marlboro advertisements typically show impressive outdoor scenes from the US, and adventurous-looking men like COWBOYS.

Marl-bo-rough /'mɑ:lbərə/ || 'mɑ:rlbərə/ a town in Wiltshire, SW England known for the famous PUBLIC SCHOOL, **Marlborough College**, established in 1843

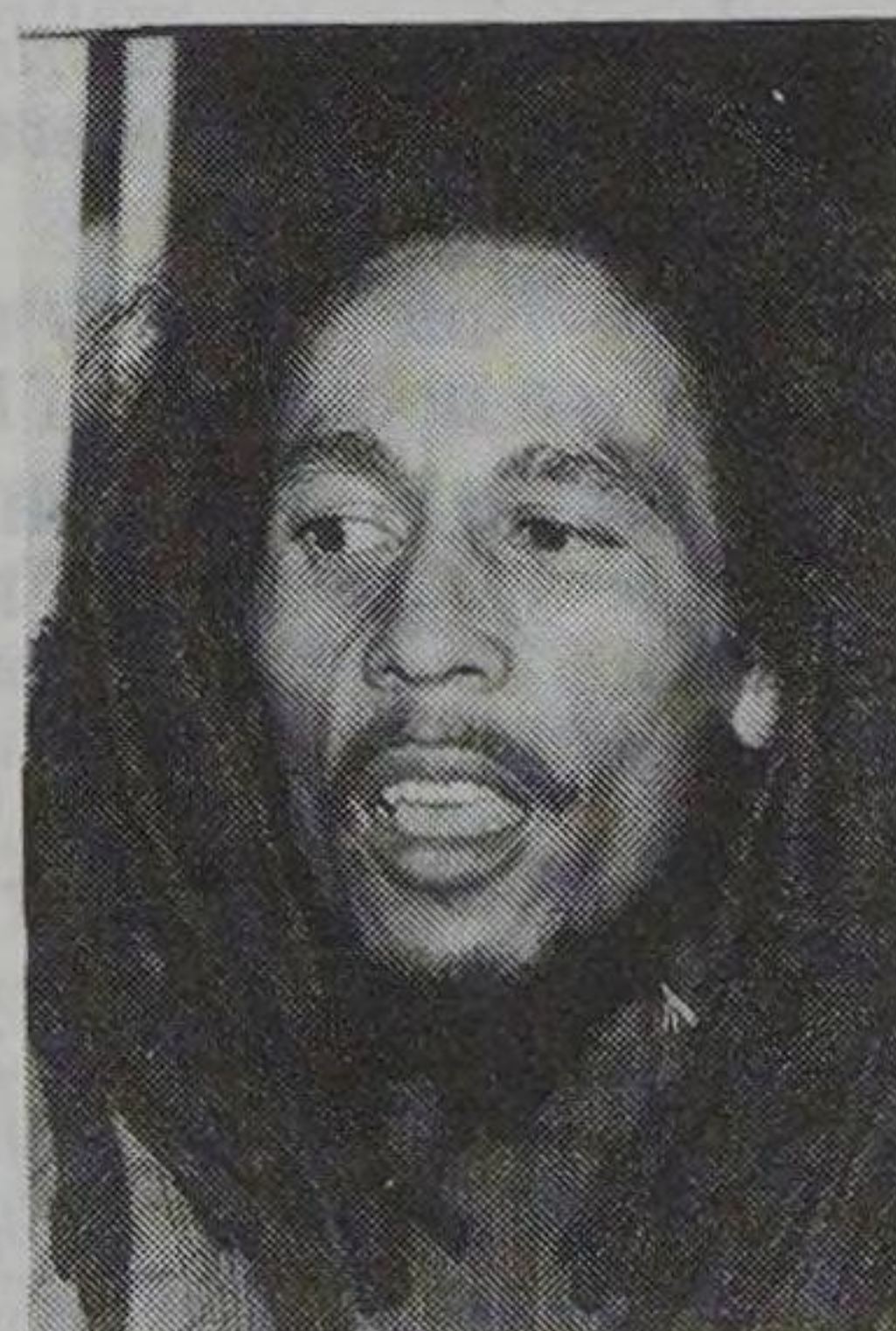
Mar-ley /'mɑ:li/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n*, **Bob** (1945–81) a Jamaican singer and songwriter who, with his group **The Wailers**, made Reggae music popular in many countries of the world. He was an exciting performer and his music often carried a social and political message. Like other RASTAFARIANS, he wore his hair in DREADLOCKS. His most famous songs include *No Woman, No Cry* and *Buffalo Soldier*.

Mar-ley tiles /'mɑ:li/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* [P] *tdmk* TILES made of clay etc. (for roofs) or of a plastic material (for floors), made by a British company called Marley

mar-lin /'mɑ:lɪn/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n* **marlin** or **marlins** a very large sea fish with a long sharp nose, which is hunted for sport

Mar-lowe /'mɑ:ləʊ/ || 'mɑ:r-/ *n*, **Chris-to-pher** /'krɪstəfə/

Bob Marley



(1564–93) an English writer of plays and poetry, best-known for his plays *Dr Faustus* and *Edward II*

Mar-lowe, Philip the main character in the DETECTIVE stories written by Raymond Chandler. Marlowe is very determined and tough, but he is honest and likes to see justice done. He is noted for his dry (=funny, without appearing to be so) humour and short, IRONIC statements.

mar-ma-lade¹ /'mɑ:məleɪd||'mɑ:r-/ *n* [U] a JAM made from CITRUS fruits, esp. oranges; in Britain it is eaten at breakfast with TOAST and butter

marmalade² *adj* esp. BrE (esp. of a cat) dark orange in colour

Marmara, Sea of see SEA OF MARMARA

Mar-mite /'mɑ:mait||'mɑ:r-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a soft, black, salty food eaten on bread or added to soups to give a savoury taste. Because it has been eaten in Britain for so many years, it is often connected with the past and considered typically British. It is often given to small children on long pieces of TOAST called **Marmite soldiers**.

mar-mo-set /'mɑ:məzet||'mɑ:rməset, -zet/ *n* any of several types of very small hairy monkey from Central and South America, with large eyes

mar-mot /'mɑ:mət||'mɑ:r-/ *n* a small European or American plant-eating animal that lives in holes in the ground — compare GROUNDHOG

Marne /mɑ:n||mɑ:rn/, **Battle of the** *n* an important battle of the First World War when the Allies stopped the Germans from reaching Paris in September 1914. A second battle in 1918 saw the Allies stop the last German attack of the war.

Mar-on-ite /'mæənait/ *n* a member of a group of Christians living esp. in Lebanon and connected to the Roman Catholic church

ma-roon¹ /mə'ru:n/ *v* [T] to leave (someone) alone in a place where no one lives, with no means of getting away: *Our boat sank and we were marooned on a small island.*

maroon² *adj* having a very dark red-brown colour — **maroon** *n* [U]

maroon³ *n* a small ROCKET that explodes high in the air, used as a signal, esp. at sea

Mar-plan /'mɑ:plæn||'mɑ:r-/ *n* a British organization that asks the public for its opinion on different subjects and prints the results in the newspapers esp. the *Financial Times* and the *Guardian*

Mar-ple /'mɑ:pəl||'mɑ:r-/ **Miss Jane** a character in many of the stories written by Agatha Christie. Miss Marple is a very respectable, polite old lady who is also very clever at explaining mysteries and discovering criminals, esp. murderers.

mar-quee /mɑ:'ki:z||mɑ:r-/ *n* **1** a large tent for outdoor public events, such as competitions or shows, or for eating and drinking in **2** AmE a sign above a theatre or cinema which gives the name of the play or film and sometimes its actors

mar-quet-ry /'mɑ:kətri||'mɑ:r-/ *n* [U] (the art of making) a type of pattern in wood, in which different coloured pieces are fitted together, esp. on the surface of furniture

Mar-quette /mɑ:'ket | mɑ:r-/ **Jacques** /zæk||zɑ:k/ (1637–75) a French Jesuit MISSIONARY and EXPLORER in N America; he and Louis JOLIET were the first Europeans to discover the Mississippi river

mar-quis, **marquess** /'mɑ:kwɪs||'mɑ:r-/ **marchioness** *fem.* — *n* a nobleman of high rank: *the Marquis of Bath*

Mar-ra-kesh, Marrakech /,mæ'rɑ'keʃ/ a city in W central Morocco, with many fine buildings. It is popular with tourists and also famous for producing CARPETS and leather goods.

mar-ram grass /'mæərəm grɑ:s||-græs/ *n* [U] a tall grass that grows by the sea

mar-riage /'mæridʒ/ *n* [C;U] **1** the union of a man and woman by a legal ceremony: *The marriage took place in church.* | *to take one's marriage vows* — see also WEDDING **2** the state of being married: *Her first marriage* (=her life with her first husband) *was not very happy.* — see also COMMON LAW MARRIAGE

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain and the US it is now common, esp. among young people, for a man and a woman to live together without being married. Some couples decide to get married when they have children. About one in three

marriages ends in divorce, (in the US, almost one in two) so there are many parents bringing up children alone. These things are no longer considered as shocking as they were in the past. However, many people still consider to be happily married one of their main aims in life. Britain is a country of many different social groups and religions, so there are many different customs and attitudes to marriage, e.g. some British families of Asian origin may arrange marriages for their sons and daughters. — see DIVORCE, ONE-PARENT FAMILY, SINGLE PARENT, WEDDING ◀

mar-riage-a-ble /'mæridʒəbəl/ *adj* *fm* (esp. of a girl) suitable, esp. in age, character, appearance, etc., for marriage: *She has three very marriageable daughters.* | *of marriageable age* — compare ELIGIBLE — **bility** /,mæridʒə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

marriage bu-reau /'... ||'.../ *n* an organization which brings together people who are looking for a husband or wife. A marriage bureau usu. asks its customers to answer a set of questions about themselves, e.g. their interests and things they like, so that they can be introduced to similar people.

marriage guid-ance /,... '.../ *n* [U] advice given to people who are married, or are thinking of getting married, esp. to help them deal with relationship problems. Marriage guidance may be given by VOLUNTARY advisers from an organization such as Relate, or by a professional adviser (COUNSELLOR).

Marriage Guidance Coun-cil /,... '... ||'.../ [*the*] see RELATE

marriage guid-ance coun-sel-lor /,... '... ||'.../ *n* a person who tries to help people who are unhappy in their marriage by asking them both to talk to him or her about the problems and helping them to deal with the problems and to talk about their problems with each other

marriage li-cence /'... ||'.../ *n* an official document which people must get before they are allowed to marry

marriage lines /'... ||'.../ *n* [P] BrE *old-fash infml* the CERTIFICATE (=official paper) which proves that a marriage has taken place

marriage of con-ve-ni-ence /,... ||'.../ *n* **marriages of convenience** a marriage contract agreed for social, political, or economic advantage rather than for love, e.g. when a foreigner marries a citizen of a country in order to be allowed to stay in that country

Marriage of Fig-a-ro /,mæridʒ əv 'figərəʊ/, **The** an OPERA by Mozart, based on a play of the same name by the French writer Beaumarchais

marriage vows /'... ||'.../ see MARITAL VOWS

mar-ried /'mærid/ *adj* **1** having a husband or wife: *Is she married?* | *a married man* — compare SINGLE¹ (4), UNMARRIED **2** [F+to] having as a husband/wife; joined in marriage (to): *She's married to my brother.* | (fig.) *He's married to his work.* (=gives it all his attention) **3** [A] of the state of marriage: *married life* — see also MARRY

mar-rieds /'mæridz/ also **young marrieds** *infml* — *n* young married people, esp. recently married ones: *new homes for young marrieds*

Mar-ri-ner /'mæri:nəʃ/, **Sir Nev-ille** /'nevəl/ (1924–) an English CONDUCTOR (=a person who directs the playing of a group of musicians)

mar-row /'mæərəʊ/ *n* **1** [U] also **bone marrow** — the soft fatty substance in the hollow centre of bones: *It was so cold that he felt frozen to the marrow.* (=as if the cold had entered his bones) **2** [C] esp. BrE also **vegetable marrow**, also **squash** AmE — a large long round dark green vegetable that grows along the ground — see picture at VEGETABLE

mar-row-bone /'mæərəʊbəʊn/ *n* a bone containing (a lot of) MARROW which can be used in cooking

mar-row-fat /'mæərəʊfæt/ also **marrowfat pea** /,... '.../ — *n* a large PEA

mar-ry /'mæri/ *v* **1** [I;T] to take (a person) in marriage: *He married late in life.* | *They got married last April.* | *They've been married for a year.* | *Will you marry me?* | *I don't think he'll ever marry.* | *He's not the marrying kind.* (=the sort of person who marries) | (fig.) *She married money.* (=a rich man) **2** [T] (of a priest or official) to perform the ceremony of marriage for (two people): *The bishop married them.* **3** [T (to)] to cause to take in marriage: *She wants to marry her daughter to a rich man.* — see also MARRIED, MARRIAGE

▷ **USAGE 1** **Get married** is less formal and more usual than **marry**, [I]: *My son's getting married next week. | They're saving up to get married.* **2** When both partners in the marriage are mentioned you can say *Ben and Jill are getting married.* You can also say *Ben is marrying (fml)/getting married to (infml) Jill* or *Jill is marrying (fml)/getting married to (infml) Ben* – see also **DIVORCE (USAGE)** ◀

marry into sthg. *phr v* [T] to become a member of (a particular group or family) by marriage: *He married into a wealthy family. | (infml) married into money*

marry sbdy. ↔ **off phr v** [T (to)] to find a husband or wife for: *She married off her daughter to a diplomat.*

Mars /mɑːz/ || mɑːr/ **1** the PLANET fourth in order from the sun, and nearest to the Earth. It shines with a red colour – see picture at **SOLAR SYSTEM**

▶ **CULTURAL NOTE** People sometimes imagine that there are creatures who live on Mars, and usu. think of them as little green men. ◀

2 in **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**, the Roman god of war

Mars Bar /'mɑːs bɑː/ *BrE* also **Mars** || **Milky Way** *AmE* *tdmk* – *n tdmk* a chocolate bar with a soft filling which has been popular in Britain for many years. In advertisements for Mars Bars it is claimed that “A Mars a day helps you work, rest, and play.”

Marsala /mɑː'sɑːlə/ || mɑːr/ *n* [U] a sweet strong wine from Marsala in the island of Sicily

Mar-seil-laise /,mɑːsə'leɪz, -seɪ'leɪz/ || mɑːr/ *n* [the] the NATIONAL ANTHEM of France

Mar-seilles /mɑː'seɪ, -seɪl/ || mɑːr/ a city in S France which is an important sea port and industrial centre

marsh /mɑːʃ/ || mɑːr/ also **marshes pl.**, **marshland** – *n* [C;U] (a piece of) low land that is soft and wet – compare **SWAMP** ¹ – ~y *adj*: *marshy ground | a marshy area*

Marsh¹, **Ngai-o** /'naɪəʊ/ (1899–1982) a New Zealand writer of **DETECTIVE** stories, whose books include *A Man Lay Dead* and *Photo Finish*

Marsh², **Pete** /pɪt/ a humorous name for **Lindow Man**, the body of a man from the Iron Age (about 3000 years ago) found in a **PEAT BOG** in Cheshire in 1984

mar-shal¹ /'mɑːʃəl/ || mɑːr/ *n* **1** an officer of the highest rank in certain armies and airforces – see also **AIR CHIEF MARSHAL**, **AIR VICE-MARSHAL**, **FIELD MARSHAL** **2** *esp. BrE* an official in charge of making arrangements for an important public or royal ceremony or event **3** an official in charge of making arrangements for a race: *The marshals waved flags to warn the drivers of the danger ahead.* **4** (in the US) **a** an official who carries out the judgments given in a court of law; one who has the duties of a **SHERIFF** **b** a chief officer of a police or fire-fighting force

marshal² *v* -ll- *BrE* || -l- *AmE* [T] **1** to arrange (esp. facts) in good or effective order: *To make a good speech you need to marshal your arguments very clearly.* **2** to lead or show (a person) ceremonially or carefully to the correct place: *Extra stewards had to be employed to marshal the crowds. | She marshalled the children into the museum.*

Mar-shall /'mɑːʃəl/ || mɑːr/, **Thur-good** /'θɜːgʊd/ || 'θɜːr-/ (1908–) the first black person to become a US Supreme Court justice. He served on the court from 1967 to 1991.

marshalling yard /'...-/ *n esp. BrE* a railway yard in which the parts of a train, esp. a goods train, are put together in preparation for a journey

Marshall Plan /'...-/ [the] a programme which gave economic help to Europe after the Second World War, named after **George Marshall**, chief of the US army during the war, who organized and directed it

Marshal of the Royal Air Force /'...-/ *n* a high rank in the British airforce – see **TABLE 3**

marsh gas /'...-/ *n* [U] gas formed by decayed vegetable matter under the surface of water in a marsh; **METHANE**

marsh-land /'mɑːʃlənd/ || mɑːr/ *n* see **MARSH**

marsh-mal-low /,mɑːʃ'mæləʊ/ || mɑːr'meləʊ/ *n* **1** a light soft round pink or white sweet often toasted (**TOAST**) on **BONFIRES** so that they melt **2** a plant with pink flowers that grows on marshes

Mar-ston Moor /,mɑːstən 'mʊə/ || mɑːr/, **Battle of** an important battle near York in 1644 during the English Civil War, which gave Cromwell control of the north of England

mar-su-pi-al /mɑː'sjuːpiəl/ || mɑːr'suː-/ *n* any of various mainly Australian animals in which the female gives birth to partly developed young and then carries them in a **POUCH** (=pocket of skin) on her body for a time: *Kangaroos and koala bears are marsupials.*

Mar-tel-lo tow-er /mɑː,teləʊ 'taʊə/ || mɑːr-/ *n* a circular tower formerly used in Britain for coastal defence. Some can still be seen on the south coast of Britain and in Jersey.

mar-ten /'mɑːtən, -tn/ || 'mɑːrtən/ *n* any of several small fierce flesh-eating animals that live mainly in trees

Mar-tha /'mɑːθə/ || 'mɑːr-/ a woman in the Bible who attended to the needs of Jesus and His **DISCIPLES**, rather than listening to His teaching

Martha and Mary see **SAINT MARTHA AND SAINT MARY**

Mar-tha's Vine-yard /,...-/ *n* an island off the NE coast of the US South of Cape Cod popular with writers and artists, and with tourists in the summer

mar-tial /'mɑːʃəl/ || mɑːr/ *adj* of or suitable to war, soldiers, etc.: *martial music*

martial art /,...-/ *n* any of various sports concerned with fighting skills, developed in Eastern countries: *Judo and karate are martial arts.*

martial law /,...-/ *n* [U] law that provides for the government of a place by the army, esp. when there has been fighting against the established government: *After the rebellion, the whole country was put under martial law.*

Mar-tian /'mɑːʃən/ || mɑːr/ *n, adj* (an imaginary creature) of or from the PLANET Mars – see also **MARS**

mar-tin /'mɑːtən/ || mɑːrtn/ *n* any of several sorts of bird (esp. the **house martin** and **sand martin**) of the **SWALLOW** family

Martin, Dean (1917–) an American actor and singer

Martin Chuz-zle-wit /,mɑːtən 'tʃʌzəlwɪt/ || mɑːrtən/ a **NOVEL** by Charles Dickens written in 1843

mar-ti-net /,mɑːtɪ'net/ || mɑːr-/ *n derog* a person who demands total, often unreasoning, obedience to rules and orders

mar-ti-ni /mɑː'tɪːni/ || mɑːr-/ *n* [C;U] (a glass of) an alcoholic drink (**COCKTAIL**) made by mixing a spirit, usu. **GIN** and **VERMOUTH**: *a dry martini* (=one with a lot more gin than vermouth) | *a vodka martini*

Martini *n* [C;U] *BrE tdmk* (a glass of) an alcoholic drink made from wine with the addition of bitter or strong-tasting substances from roots and **HERBS**. It is usu. drunk before a meal, sometimes mixed with **GIN**.

Mar-ti-nique /,mɑːtɪ'niːk/ || mɑːrtɪn'iːk/ a mountainous island in the Caribbean which is an overseas part of France. The main town is **Fort-de-France**; population 331,000 (1989)

mar-tyr¹ /'mɑːtə/ || mɑːr-/ *n* **1** someone who is put to death or suffers for their beliefs, esp. for religious beliefs: *the early Christian martyrs* **2** *often derog* someone who gives up their own wishes or suffers something unpleasant in order to help other people or in the hope of receiving sympathy: *She only cleans all our shoes every evening because she enjoys being a martyr/enjoys making a martyr of herself.* **3** [(to)] *infml* someone who suffers something they cannot avoid, esp. a long-lasting illness: *She's a martyr to her rheumatism.*

martyr² *v* [T] to kill (someone) or cause (someone) to suffer greatly for a belief

mar-tyr-dom /'mɑːtədəm/ || mɑːrtər-/ *n* [U] the death or suffering of a martyr

mar-vel¹ /'mɑːvəl/ || mɑːr-/ *n* something (or someone) that causes wonder and admiration; wonderful thing or example: *What marvels met our eyes when we opened the treasure chest! | How they train those lions is a marvel to me. | This new furniture polish can do/work marvels.* (=produce wonderfully good results) | *He's a marvel; he still goes running every day even though he's over 80.*

marvel² *v* -ll- *BrE* || -l- *AmE* [I (at);T] *fml* to be filled with great wonder, surprise, admiration, etc.: *We marvelled at their skill. [+that] The onlookers marvelled that he was unharmed after such a long fall.*

Mar-vell /'mɑːvəl/ || mɑːr-, **Andrew** (1621–78) an English **METAPHYSICAL** poet and **MP**, known for his amusing love-poems. He also wrote **SATIRES** and political poems.

mar-vel-lous *BrE* || -velous *AmE* /'mɑːvələs/ || mɑːr-/ *adj* causing great wonder, admiration, or pleasure, esp.

because extremely good, unusually clever, etc.: *What marvellous weather!* | *a marvellous idea* — ~ly adv

Mar·vin /'mɑ:vɪn||'mɑ:r-/ **Lee** (1924–87) an American film actor known esp. for playing strong, violent characters in films such as *The Dirty Dozen* and *Point Blank*. He is also remembered for singing the song *I was Born under a Wandering Star* in a very deep voice.

Marx /mɑ:ks||mɑ:ks/, **Karl** /kɑ:l||kɑ:rl/ (1818–83) a German political thinker and writer who, with Friedrich Engels, wrote the *Communist Manifesto* (1848) and established the basis for modern SOCIALISM and COMMUNISM. He was forced to leave Europe after the REVOLUTIONS of 1848, and lived in London where he wrote his most important work *Das Kapital*. Many people visit his grave in Highgate Cemetery, London. —see also COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

The Marx Brothers



Marx Brothers /'mɑ:ks brʌðəz/, **The** an American family of actors known for their special kind of humour and jokes. The most important members were **Groucho** (1895–1977), **Harpo** (1893–1964), who never spoke, and **Chico** (1891–1961). Their films include *Horse Feathers* and *Duck Soup*. Groucho is probably the best-known. He had large glasses, a MOUSTACHE, and a strange way of walking, and he always had a thick CIGAR. In the US he was also the host of a GAME SHOW called *You Bet Your Life* for many years.

Marx-is-m /'mɑ:ksɪzəm||'mɑ:r-/ *n* [U] the teachings of Karl Marx on which COMMUNISM and SOCIALISM are based, which explain the changes in history according to the struggle between social classes and say that this will in time lead to the fall of CAPITALISM and the victory of the working classes —ist *n*, *adj*

Marxism-Len-in-is-m /'mɑ:ksɪzəm||'lɛnɪnɪzəm/ *n* [U] Marxism as explained, added to, and practised by Lenin, which says that society must be controlled by the workers until the establishment of a classless society —**Marxist-Leninist** *n*, *adj*

Ma-ry /'meəri/, **the Virgin** according to the Bible, the mother of Jesus Christ and the most important SAINT, also called **Our Lady**. From earliest times, Christians (esp. CATHOLICS) have prayed to her when asking for help or cures.

Mary had a Lit-tle Lamb /'meəri həd ə lɪtl̩ lʌmb/ a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children):

*Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow;
And everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go.*

Mary I /'meəri ðə 'fɜ:st||-'fɜ:rst/ also **Mary Tudor**—(1516–58) the daughter of Henry VIII of England and Katharine of Aragon. She became queen of England in 1553, and married Phillip II of Spain. She tried to make England return to the Catholic faith, and many Protestants who refused to do so were killed by being burnt. Because of this she was often called **Bloody Mary**.

Mary II /'meəri ðə 'sekənd/ see WILLIAM AND MARY

Ma-ry-land /'meərɪlənd/ *written abbrev. MD*—a state on the E coast of the US, one of the 13 original colonies (COLONY). It has a very busy port at Baltimore. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Mar-y-le-bone /'mærɪləbən||'merələbən/ an area in W London, also the name of a railway station

Mary, Mary, Quite Con-tra-ry /'meəri meəri kwaɪtə kən'traɪ/ the title and first line of a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children):

*Mary, Mary, quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells, and cockle shells,
And pretty maids all in a row.*

Mary Mag-da-le-ne /'meəri mægdə'li:ni, -'mægdəli:n/ see SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

Mary Pop-pins /'meəri 'pɒpɪnz||-'pɑ:z/ (a character in) a children's book by P L Travers. Mary Poppins was a NANNY (=employed to take care of the children in a family) who had magical powers, e.g. being able to fly. The film *Mary Poppins* was very successful.

Mary Quant /'meəri 'kwɒnt||-'kwɑ:nt/ a British company, named after the woman who began it, that makes fashionable clothes for women, jewellery, and COSMETICS

Mary Queen of Scots /'meəri kwɪn əv skɒts/ also **Mary Stuart** /'meəri stju:t/ (1542–87) the daughter of James V of Scotland and COUSIN of Elizabeth I of England. She became queen of Scotland as a baby. In 1567 she had to ABDICATE and ran away to England, where she spent the rest of her life as a prisoner. Many Catholics thought she should have been queen of England instead of Elizabeth I. She was thought to have been involved in a plan to kill Elizabeth, and Elizabeth ordered her to be killed. She was killed by having her head cut off. When Elizabeth died Mary's son, James VI of Scotland, also became king (James I) of England. In her life Mary had three husbands and many adventures. She is often thought of as a brave and beautiful woman and many stories and books have been written about her.

Mary Rose /'meəri roʊz/, **The** a British warship which sank in the sea off the S coast of England on its first journey in 1545. The wreck was brought to the surface in 1982.

mar-zi-pan /'mɑ:zɪpæn||'mɑ:rtzɪ-, 'mɑ:rzɪ-/ *n* [U] a very sweet substance made from sugar, eggs, and finely crushed ALMONDS used for making sweets and for covering cakes, esp. wedding cakes

Ma-sai /'mɑ:sai/ *n* 1 [C] (a member of) a people of Kenya and Tanzania 2 [U] the language of the Masai —**Masai** *adj*

mas-c. *written abbrev. for:* MASCULINE (2)

mas-ca-ra /mæ'skɑ:rə||mæ'skærə/ *n* [U] a dark substance used by women to colour and thicken their eyelashes (EYELASH)

mas-cot /'mæskət||'mæskɑ:t/ *n* an object, animal, or person that is chosen as a SYMBOL and thought to bring good luck: *The football team's mascot is a goat.*

mas-cu-line /'mæskjʊlɪn/ *adj* 1 of or having qualities that are considered typical of or suitable for a man, such as strength, authority, and a deep voice: *He looks very masculine in his new uniform.* | *She has a rather masculine voice.* 2 (in grammar) for or belonging to the class of words that usu. includes most of the words for males: *"Drake" is the masculine word for "duck."* | *The word for "book" is masculine in French.* | *a masculine ending* —compare FEMININE, NEUTER; see FEMININE (USAGE)

mas-cu-lin-i-ty /'mæskjʊlɪnɪti/ *n* [U] the quality of being MASCULINE (1)

Mase-field /'meɪsfɪld/, **John** (1878–1967) an English writer and seaman, best known for his poems about the sea

ma-ser /'meɪzər/ *n* an apparatus for producing a very powerful electric force —compare LASER

Mas-e-ra-ti /'mæzə'rɑ:ti||'mɑ:s-/ *tdmk* an expensive Italian car made by the Maserati company known for its speed and style

mash¹ /mæʃ/ *v* [T (UP)] to crush into a soft substance, often after cooking: *Mash (up) the potatoes with a fork.*

mash² *n* 1 [U] *BrE infml* mashed potatoes, esp. when eaten with SAUSAGES: *I love sausage and mash.* 2 [C;U] a mixture of grain, BRAN, etc., with water, forming a soft mass used as food for animals 3 [U] a mixture of MALT with hot water, used in making beer

M-A-S-H /mæʃ/ an American television programme made in the 1970s and 1980s and popular in the US and Britain, about an American army medical camp during the KOREAN WAR. Although a COMEDY, it also showed the effects that war has on people.

mashed po-ta-toes /'mæʃtə'təʊz/ *n* [P] potatoes which have been boiled then crushed to make them soft

mask¹ /mɑ:sk||mæsk/ *n* a covering for the face or for part of the face (e.g. for the eyes or the nose and mouth) which hides or protects it, esp. so as to avoid being recognized, to protect the wearer from dangerous substances, or to protect others from infection: *Many of the dancers at the fancy dress ball wore colourful masks.* | *Surgeons wear*



Kings Cross station

Regent's Park

Euston station

Telecom Tower

British Museum

Liverpool St. station

Barbican Centre

St. Paul's Cathedral

The City

Leicester Square

The Old Bailey

Covent Garden

West End

Oxford Street

Piccadilly Circus

National Gallery

Embankment

Charing Cross station

Tower of London

Trafalgar Square

Buckingham Palace

National Theatre and Southbank

Waterloo station

No 10

Tower Bridge

St. James Park

Houses of Parliament

Westminster Abbey

Victoria station

Albert Hall

Harrods

1 km.

River Thames

The British Isles are made up of The United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and The Republic of Ireland.

The United Kingdom

capital city: London

money: pounds sterling

Northern Ireland

capital city: Belfast

patron saint: Saint Patrick

languages: English, Irish Gaelic

Republic of Ireland

capital city: Dublin

patron saint: Saint Patrick

languages: English, Irish Gaelic

NORTHERN IRELAND

Londonderry

Belfast

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

a pint of Guinness

Dublin

a shamrock

WALES

Wales

capital city: Cardiff

patron saint: Saint David

languages: English, Welsh

national costume of Wales

Swansea

Welsh miner

Cardiff

Stonehenge

Cornwall

Bristol

Bath

Birmingham

William Shakespeare

Stratford-on-Avon

Oxford

River Thames

Cambridge

London

Dover

Brighton

Isle of Wight

cross-channel ferry

ENGLISH CHANNEL

Orkney Islands

Shetland Islands

SCOTLAND

Hebrides

Skye

Scottish Highlands

whisky

Ben Nevis

Aberdeen

Scotland

capital city: Edinburgh

patron saint: Saint Andrew

languages: English, Scottish Gaelic

England

capital city: London

patron saint: Saint George

language: English

River Tyne

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

NORTH SEA

Isle of Man

TT races

Blackpool

River Mersey

Leeds

Anglesey

Liverpool

Sheffield

ENGLAND

Snowdon

Manchester

Nottingham

IRISH SEA

William Shakespeare

Stratford-on-Avon

Oxford

River Thames

Cambridge

London

Dover

Brighton

Isle of Wight

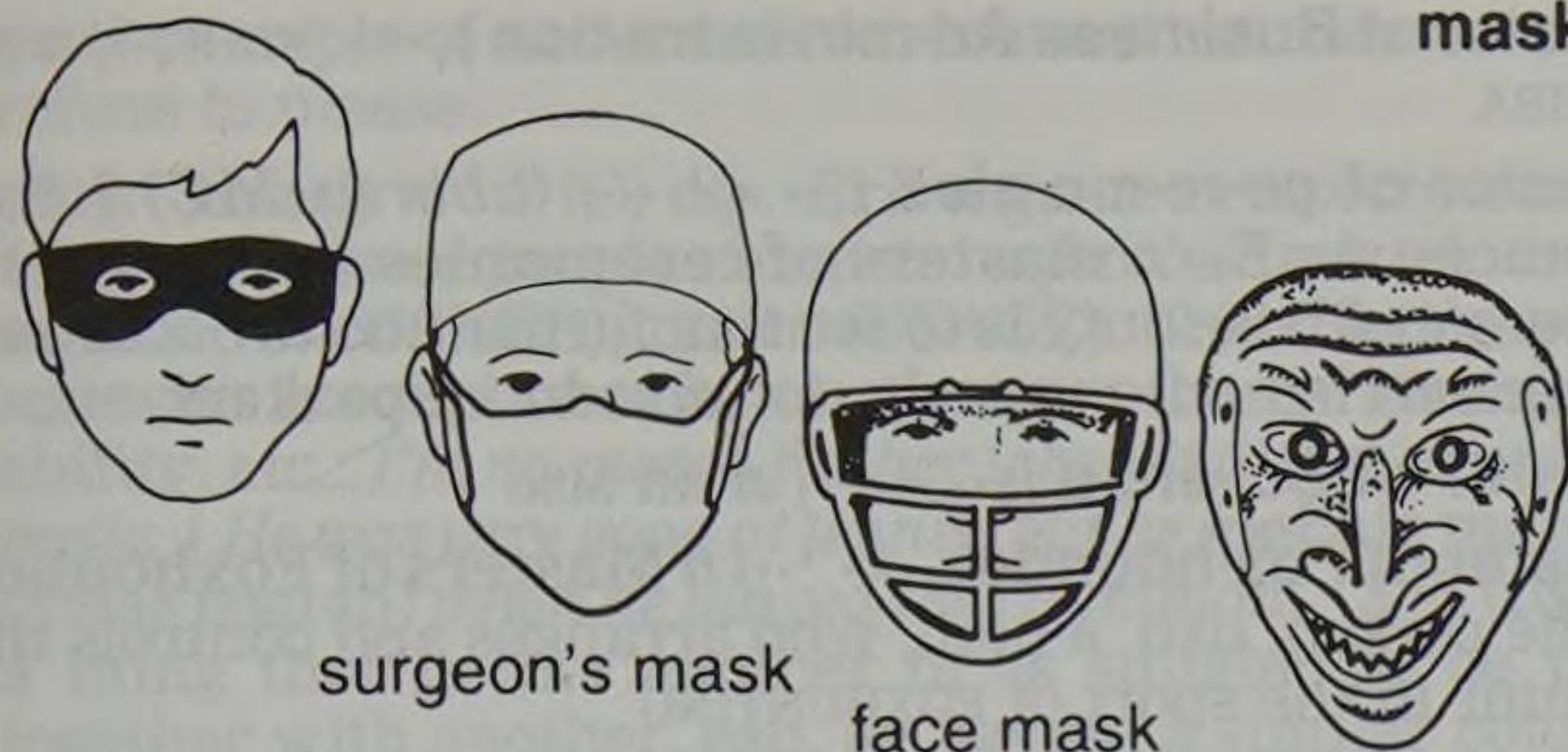
cross-channel ferry

ENGLISH CHANNEL

200 km.



masks



surgeon's mask

face mask

masks to prevent the spread of infection. | a fencing mask | (fig.) *He hid his hatred under a mask of loyalty.* —see also DEATH MASK, GAS MASK and see picture at GOGGLES

mask² *v* [T] to hide (as if) with a mask; keep from being seen or noticed: *If you put in too much pepper you'll mask the delicate flavour of the sauce.* | *His smile masked his anger.* —see also UNMASK

masked /mɑːskt/|mæskt/ *adj* **1** wearing a mask: *The robbery was carried out by a gang of masked men.* **2** by or for people wearing masks: *a masked ball* **3** **masked man** a way of referring to the Lone Ranger —see LONE RANGER

Mas-kell /'mæskəl/, **Dan** (1908–92) an English television and radio sports COMMENTATOR remembered esp. for his descriptions of tennis matches at Wimbledon

masking tape /'...-/ *n* [U] sticky material in a long narrow band used when painting a surface to cover the edge of any area which one wishes to leave unpainted

mas-o-chis-m /'mæsəkɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** the gaining of pleasure from suffering pain or unpleasantness **2** the wish to be hurt so as to gain sexual pleasure —compare SADISM —**chist** *n* —**chistic** /'mæsə'kɪstɪk/ *adj*: *masochistic tendencies*

ma-son /'meɪsən/ *n* **1** a STONEMASON **2** (*usu. cap.*) a FREEMASON

Mason, James (1909–84) a British actor who played ROMANTIC bad characters in British films in the 1940s and later worked in the US

Mason, Perry the main character in the books of Erle Stanley Gardner and in an American television programme of the 1960s about a lawyer who SOLVES crimes

Mason-Dix-on line /'meɪsən 'dɪksən laɪn/ [*the*] the border between the states of Maryland and Pennsylvania in the US. It is known for dividing the slave-owning states of the South from the free states of the North until the end of the American Civil War. Some people still consider it a dividing line between North and South.

ma-son-ic /mə'sɒnɪk/|mə'sɑː-/ *adj* (*often cap.*) of or connected with Freemasons or their beliefs, practices, etc.: *masonic rituals* | *a masonic lodge*

mason jar /'...-/ *n* *AmE* a glass pot with a tight lid used for preserving fruit and vegetables —compare KILNER JAR

ma-son-ry /'meɪsənri/ *n* [U] **1** stones from which a building, wall, etc., is made: *She was hurt by a piece of falling masonry.* **2** (*often cap.*) FREEMASONRY (1)

Ma-so-ra, Masorah /mə'sɔːrə/ [*the*] a set of notes about the Hebrew Old Testament, written in the thousand years up to 1000 AD

masque /mɑːsk/|mæsk/ *n* a theatrical play often performed in the 16th and 17th centuries for kings, queens, or noblemen, written in poetry and including music, dancing, and songs

mas-que-rade¹ /'mæskə'reɪd/ *n* **1** something, esp. an action or way of behaving, that is intended to hide the truth; SHAM: *The neighbours know you've lost your job, so why keep up this masquerade of going out to work every day?* **2** a dance where people wear MASKS **3** *AmE* for FANCY DRESS: *We're going to have a masquerade party on Hallowe'en.*

masquerade² *v* [I (as)] to pretend (to be): *The robbers got into the bank by masquerading as security men.* —**rader** *n*

mass¹ /mæs/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a large solid lump or pile, usu. without a clear shape: *A great mass of rock had fallen from the cliff and now blocked the road.* **2** [C (of)] also

masses *pl.* — *infml* a large number; lots: *Her garden is a mass of flowers.* (=there are very many flowers in it) | *There are masses of people in here.* | *The mass of (=most) voters are in favour of these proposals.* **3** [U] *tech* (in science) the amount of matter in a body: *A litre of gas has less mass than a litre of water.* —see also MASSES

mass² *v* [I] to gather together in large numbers: *Crowds massed along the road where the queen would pass.* | *Dark clouds massed, and we expected rain.*

mass³ *adj* [A *no comp.*] of or for a large number, esp. of people: *a mass murderer* (=one who has killed many people) | *a mass walkout at the factory* | *mass unemployment*

mass⁴ *n* a piece of music written specially for all the main parts of the Mass

Mass *n* [C;(the) U] the main service in some Christian churches, esp. the Roman Catholic church. In it people eat bread and drink wine to represent the body and blood of Jesus Christ, which they believe he gave in order to save them: *to go to Mass* | *The priest celebrated (the) Mass.* —compare COMMUNION; see also HIGH MASS

Mas-sa-chu-setts /'mæsə'tʃuːsɪts/ *written abbrevs:* **MA, Mass.** a state in the NE of the US whose capital city is Boston. Massachusetts was where the PILGRIM FATHERS landed and was an important British COLONY before it became one of the 13 original states. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

mas-sa-cre¹ /'mæsəkə/ *n* **1** the cruel killing of large numbers of people, esp. those who cannot defend themselves: *the brutal massacre of thousands of innocent civilians* **2** *infml* a severe defeat: *It was a complete massacre; we lost 11-0!*

massacre² *v* [T] **1** to kill (a number of people) without pity: *They set fire to the city and massacred all its inhabitants.* —see KILL (USAGE) **2** *infml* to defeat severely

Massacre of the In-no-cents /'...-.../ [*the*] the killing of Jewish male children ordered by King Herod, as described in the Bible —see also HEROD

mas-sage¹ /'mæsɜːʒ/|mə'sɑːʒ/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) pressing and rubbing someone's body with one's hands, esp. in order to take away pain or stiffness from the muscles and joints: *to give/have a massage*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** When women advertise that they will give a massage in return for money, it is often understood that they are PROSTITUTES, but in some parts of the US massages are becoming very fashionable and some businesses even hire people to give their employees massages of the neck and shoulders. ◀

massage² *v* [T] **1** to give a massage to (someone or a part of the body) **2** to change (facts, figures, etc.), usu. in a dishonest way so that they appear better than they really are: *We suspected that the unemployment figures had been massaged.*

massage par-lour /'...-.../ *n* **1** a place where one can pay to have a massage **2** *euph* for BROTHEL

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Because running a brothel is ILLEGAL in Britain and the US, houses where PROSTITUTES work are often advertised as massage parlours. ◀

mass-es /'mæsɪz/ *n* [*the+P*] sometimes derog the largest class of people in society, esp. the WORKING CLASS: *He spent his life trying to improve the living conditions of the masses.*

mas-seur /mæ'sɜːr, mə-/ **mas-seuse** /mæ'sɜːz, mə-/ *fem.* — *n* someone who gives massages

Mas-sey Fer-gu-son /'mæsi 'fɜːgəsən/|-'fɜːr-/ a Canadian-owned company that makes and sells TRACTORS and farm machinery in many countries

mas-sif /'mæsiːf/|mæ'sɪːf/ *n* *tech* a group of mountains forming one mass

mas-sive /'mæsɪv/ *adj* **1** of great size, esp. strong, solid, and heavy: *the castle's massive walls* | *the elephant's massive head* **2** great or greater than usual in degree, amount, power, severity, etc.: *He suffered a massive haemorrhage and died soon after.* | *massive efforts to improve productivity* | *massive doses of antibiotics to fight the infection* — *~ly* *adv* — *~ness* *n* [U]

mass me-di-a /'...-.../ *n* [*the+sing./pl.* *v*] the MEDIA

mass-pro-duce /'...-.../ *v* [T] to produce (goods) in large numbers to the same pattern by machinery: *Mass-produced furniture is cheaper than furniture made by hand.*

mass pro-duc-tion /ˌmæsˈprɒdʌkʃən/ *n* [U] the making of large numbers of the same article by a fixed method

mast /mɑːst/ *n* 1 a long upright pole of wood or metal for carrying sails or flags on a ship —compare SPAR¹ (1), and see picture at YACHT 2 an upright metal framework for radio and television AERIALS 3 a flagpole —see also HALF-MAST 4 **before the mast** *lit* on a sailing ship as an ordinary seaman, not as an officer

mas-tec-to-my /mæˈstektəmi/ *n med* an operation for the removal of a breast, usu. when BREAST CANCER has been discovered —compare LUMPECTOMY

mas-ter¹ /ˈmɑːstər/ *n* 1 a man in control of people, animals, or things: *The slaves rebelled against their masters.* | *His wife and children are always being rude to him and ordering him about. He's not even master in his own house.* | (fig.) *He prefers freelance work because he enjoys being his own master.* (=being independent) 2 *BrE* **mistress** *fem.* — a male teacher: *the maths master* —compare MISTRESS; see also HEADMASTER 3 a man who commands a ship carrying goods or passengers, or a large fishing boat 4 a man who has great skill in art or in working with his hands: *a master craftsman* | *The painting is the work of a master/done by a master hand.* —see also GRAND MASTER, OLD MASTER, PAST MASTER 5 something from which copies are made: *a master tape* | *You've left your master (copy) in the photocopier.* 6 (*usu. cap., esp. BrE*) the head of certain university colleges: *the Master of King's College, Cambridge*

master² *adj* [A *no comp.*] 1 *tech or apprec* having a lot of skill as a result of long experience: *a master carpenter* | *a master chef* 2 chief; most important: *the master bedroom*

master³ *v* [T] 1 to learn thoroughly or gain a lot of skill in: *It takes years to master a new language.* | *He has never mastered the art of public speaking.* 2 to fight against (a bad feeling) so as not to be controlled by it: *He tried hard to master his fear of heights.*

Master *n old-fash* (used for addressing a young boy, esp. on a letter): *Master John Smith, 4 New Road*

master-at-arms /ˌmɑːstərˈɑːrms/ *n* **masters-at-arms** an officer with police duties on a ship

master card /ˈmɑːstəkɑːd/ *n* a specially good reason, piece of knowledge, etc., which will have more effect than anything else: *At the climax of the meeting the chairman played his master card and announced that he had bought the company.*

Mas-ter-Card /ˈmɑːstəkɑːd/ *n* a large international CREDIT CARD system set up by a group of banks. Access is a member of the MasterCard system.

the symbol for
MasterCard



mas-ter-ful /ˈmɑːstəfəl/ *adj* *apprec, esp. lit* (of people or behaviour) showing full control, understanding, etc. of people and situations: *The heroes of romantic fiction are supposed to be strong and masterful.* —compare MASTERLY — *~ly adv*

master key /ˈmɑːstərˈkeɪ/ *n* a key that will open several different locks

mas-ter-ly /ˈmɑːstəli/ *adj* *apprec* done or acting with very great skill: *a masterly summing-up of the situation* —compare MASTERFUL — **~liness** *n* [U]

mas-ter-mind¹ /ˈmɑːstəmaɪnd/ *n* a very clever person, esp. one who is responsible for a plan: *the mastermind behind the robbery*

mastermind² *v* [T] *infml* to plan (an important or difficult course of action) cleverly: *to mastermind a crime*

Mastermind a British television programme in which members of the public compete to answer questions on general knowledge and on their own special subject. The programme is known for the large black chair that each person sits in to answer the questions and for the question master, Magnus MAGNUSSON. If a person does not know the answer to a question, they say “pass”, and the next question is then asked. If the time for a person's questions finishes when Magnus Magnusson is in the middle of a question, he says “I've started so I'll finish” and he finishes asking the question.

Master of Arts /ˈmɑːstərˈɑːts/ *n* an MA

Master of Business Ad-min-is-tra-tion /ˈmɑːstərˈbɪznəsˌædˌmɪnɪˈstrəʃən/ *n* an MBA

master of ce-re-mo-nies /ˈmɑːstərˈsɪəriˌniːz/ (*abbrev. MC*) *n* also **emcee** *AmE* — *n* **masters of ceremonies** (*often caps.*) a person whose duty is to see that formal social occasions are carried out properly, to introduce speakers, etc.

Master of Science /ˈmɑːstərˈsaɪəns/ *n* an MSC

Master of Fox-hounds /ˈmɑːstərˈfɒksaʊndz/ *n* **Masters of Foxhounds** the person, usu. a man, who arranges and controls the hunt in the sport of FOXHUNTING

Master of the Rolls /ˈmɑːstərˈɒlz/ *n* **Masters of the Rolls** a high-ranking judge in England and Wales who sits as head of the Court of Appeal

mas-ter-piece /ˈmɑːstəpiːs/ *n* a piece of work, esp. art, done with extreme skill, which is the best of its type or one of the best that a particular person has done: *The “Mona Lisa” was Leonardo's masterpiece.*

master plan /ˈmɑːstərˈplæn/ *n* a plan for controlling everything which happens in a complicated situation

mas-ter's /ˈmɑːstəz/ *n* *infml* (*often cap.*) **master's** a degree of MA, MSC, etc.: *He's planning on doing a master's in English literature.*

Masters and John-son /ˈmɑːstəzˌdʒɒnˌsɒn/ William Howell Masters (1915–) and Virginia Eshelman Johnson (1925–); an American team of scientists who have studied human sexual behaviour. Their best known work is *Human Sexual Response*.

Masters Tour-na-ment /ˈmɑːstəzˌtɔːnəˌment/ also **US Masters Tournament**; **US Masters** — [*the*] a GOLF competition held once each year in the US

mas-ter-stroke /ˈmɑːstəstɹəʊk/ *n* a very skilful action or plan which results in complete success

master switch /ˈmɑːstərˈswɪtʃ/ *n* a switch (SWITCH(1)) that controls all the other switches in an electrical CIRCUIT (3): *He threw the master switch and every light in the building went out.*

master-work /ˈmɑːstəwɜːrk/ *n* a MASTERPIECE, esp. one completed after long effort

mas-ter-y /ˈmɑːstəri/ *n* [U (*over, of*)] 1 full power to control or defeat something: *mastery over/of his fear* 2 great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity: *He shows complete mastery of his chosen subject.*

mast-head /ˈmɑːsthed/ *n* 1 the top of a ship's MAST 2 the name of a newspaper, magazine, etc. often with the names of its owner, writers, etc. when printed at the top of the first page

mas-ti-cate /ˈmæstɪˌkeɪt/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to crush (food) thoroughly with the teeth; **CHew** — **-cation** /ˈmæstɪˌkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

mas-tiff /ˈmæstɪf/ *n* a large powerful dog, often used to guard houses

mas-ti-tis /ˈmæstɪˌtaɪtɪs/ *n* [U] *med* INFLAMMATION (swelling) of the breast

mas-to-don /ˈmæstəˌdɒn/ *n* a large animal like an elephant, which no longer exists

mas-toid /ˈmæstɔɪd/ *n* *tech* a small bone behind the ear

Mas-troi-an-ni /ˈmæstrɔɪˌjɑːni/, **Mar-cel-lo** /ˈmɑːtʃeləʊ/ *n* (1923–) an Italian film actor, famous esp. for the film *La Dolce Vita*

mas-tur-bate /ˈmæstəˌbeɪt/ *v* [I] to excite one's own sex organs by handling, rubbing, etc. — **-bation** /ˈmæstəˌbeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the past, it was considered unhealthy to masturbate, and young men were told that if they did it they might become blind or go mad. ◀

mat¹ /mæt/ *n* 1 a piece of rough strong material for covering part of a floor; small RUG —SEE ALSO DOORMAT 2 a small piece of material for putting under objects on a table; **TABLEMAT**: *Put the hot dish down on the mat, so you don't burn the table.*

mat² *adj* not shiny; **MATT** —compare GLOSS¹

mat-a-dor /ˈmætədɔːr/ *n* the man who kills the BULL in a BULLFIGHT —compare PICADOR

Ma-ta Ha-ri /ˈmɑːtəˈhɑːri/ (1876–1917) a Dutch dancer and member of the German secret service in Paris during the First World War, who obtained military secrets from Allied army officers of high rank. She was tried in court and shot by the French. She is often considered to be a

good example of an attractive woman that men cannot refuse to please.

match¹ /mætʃ/ *n* **1** [C] *esp. BrE* a game or sports event where teams or people compete: *a football match* —see RECREATION (USAGE), TENNIS (USAGE) **2** [S (for)] a person who is equal to or better than another in strength, ability, etc.: *I'm no match for her when it comes to arithmetic.* | *He was very good at tennis, but he met his match* (=was beaten) *when he played the champion.* **3** [S (for)] a thing that is like another or is suitable to be put together with another, esp. by having a similar colour or pattern: *We can't find a match for this ornament.* | *The hat and shoes are a perfect match.* **4** [C *usu. sing.*] *esp. old use* **a** a possible husband or wife: *My son would be a good match for your daughter.* **b** a marriage of the stated kind: *Both her daughters made good matches.*

match² *v* **1** **a** [I (UP); T] to be like or suitable for use with (another or each other), esp. in colour or pattern: *The curtains don't match the paint.* | *The curtains and the paint don't quite match.* | *a matching skirt and sweater* **b** [T (UP)] to find something like or suitable for use with: *I'm trying to match this yellow wool.* **2** [T] **a** [(in, for)] to be equal to or find an equal for: *His latest film doesn't match his previous ones.* | *This hotel can't be matched for* (=provides excellent) *service and food.* **b** [(to)] to make equal or suitable: *to match one's spending to one's income* **3** **well-/ill-matched** (of a pair) suitable/not suitable to be with, or to compete with, each other: *a well-matched husband and wife* | *The two boxers aren't very well-matched.* (=one is much better than the other)

match sbdy./sthg. **against** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to cause to compete against: *Ann will be matched against Jane in the semifinal.*

match up to/with sthg. *phr v* [T] to be as good as (something expected): *It wasn't a bad holiday, but the weather didn't match up to our hopes.*

match³ *n* a short thin stick, usu. of wood, with a special substance covering one end which burns when the end is struck against a rough surface: *She lit her cigarette with a match.* | *to strike a match* | *a box/book of matches* —see also SAFETY MATCH

match-book /'mætʃbʊk/ *n* a small, folded piece of heavy paper which contains paper matches. In the US, match-books often contain advertising and are given away free by businesses.

match-box /'mætʃbɒks||-bɔːks/ *n* a small box in which matches are sold, with rough material along one or both sides on which to strike them

match-less /'mætʃləs/ *adj fml or lit* which has no equal in quality: *her matchless beauty* — *~ly adv*

match-maker /'mætʃ,meɪkə/ *n* a person who tries to arrange marriages or relationships, e.g. by introducing people to each other at social events — **making** *n* [U]

Match of the Day /, . . . ' / a television sports programme broadcast by the BBC which shows usu. the most important football match played on that day

match point /, . . . ' / *n* [C; U] the situation in a game, esp. tennis, when one player will win the match if he/she gains the next point

match-stick /'mætʃ,stɪk/ *n* a single MATCH³, esp. one that has been used

match-wood /'mætʃwʊd/ *n* [U] small thin pieces of wood: *The impact splintered the thin walls to matchwood.*

mate¹ /meɪt/ *n* **1** (often in comb.) a friend, or person one works with: *Her mates/workmates/schoolmates waited for her by the gate.* | *He's a mate of mine.* —see also RUNNING MATE, SOUL MATE **2** one of a male-female pair, usu. of animals: *The male hunts for food while his mate guards the nest.* **3** (not in the navy) a ship's officer next in rank below the captain: *the first mate* **4** *BrE & AustrE infml* (a friendly way of addressing a man, used esp. by working men): *"What time is it, mate?"* —see also MATEY **5** someone who works with and helps the stated kind of skilled workman: *a builder's/plumber's mate*

mate² *v* [I; T (with)] to become or make into a pair, esp. of animals, for the production of young: *Birds mate in the spring, the mating season.* | *They mated a horse with a donkey.*

mate³ *n, v* CHECKMATE^{1,2}

ma-té /'maːteɪ/ *n* [U] a kind of tea made from the leaves and stems of a South American plant

ma-ter /'meɪtə, 'mɑː-||'meɪ-/ *n* *BrE* (sometimes cap.) mother: *I'll have to ask Mater.* The word was formerly used by young UPPER-CLASS people, esp. boys at PUBLIC SCHOOL; now rarely used except humorously —compare PATER

ma-te-ri-al¹ /mə'tɪəriəl/ *n* **1** [C; U] anything from which something is or can be made; natural or man-made substance: *What kind of material is the bridge made of?* | *Rubber is a hard-wearing material.* | *Building materials are expensive.* | *writing materials, such as paper and pens* | (fig.) *He's excellent officer material.* (=a good enough soldier to become an officer) **2** [C; U] cloth: *a few metres of dress material* —see CLOTHES (USAGE) **3** [U (for)] information from which a (written) work is to be produced: *She's collecting material for a book.*

material² *adj* **1** **a** of or having an effect on real or solid matter or substance, not spirit: *The storm did a great deal of material damage.* (=damaged buildings, property, etc.) **b** of the body, rather than the mind or soul; physical: *Food is a material need.* **2** [A] important and having a wide effect; SIGNIFICANT: *a material change in our plans* **3** [(to)] having an important connection; RELEVANT: *facts material to the investigation* —opposite **immaterial** — *~ly adv*

ma-te-ri-al-is-m /mə'tɪəriəlizəm/ *n* [U] **1** *esp. derog* (too) great interest in and desire for possessions, money, etc., rather than spiritual matters, art, etc. **2** *tech* the belief that only matter exists, and that there is no world of the spirit —compare IDEALISM — **istic** /mə'tɪəriə'lɪstɪk/ *adj*: *our materialistic society* — **istically** /kli/ *adv*

ma-te-ri-al-ist /mə'tɪəriəlɪst/ *n* **1** a person who believes that human actions are governed by the wish to gain things for oneself **2** a person who believes in MATERIALISM (2) — **materialist, materialistic** *adj*

ma-te-ri-al-ize also **-ise** *BrE* — /mə'tɪəriəlaɪz/ *v* **1** [I; T] to (cause to) begin to have physical form; appear: *The shape of a man materialized out of the shadows.* | *The magician appeared to materialize the rabbit from thin air!* | (fig.) *I'd arranged to meet him at seven, but he never materialized.* (=he did not come to meet me) **2** [I] (of something planned or expected) to become real or actual: *He always wanted a large family, but his hopes never materialized.* — **-ization** /mə'tɪəriəlaɪ'zeɪʃən||-lə/ *n* [U]

ma-ter-nal /mə'tɜːnl||-zɜːr/ *adj* **1** of, like, or natural to a mother: *her maternal feelings/instincts* | *maternal love* —compare MOTHERLY **2** [A] related to a person through the mother's side of the family: *my maternal grandfather* (=my mother's father) —compare PATERNAL — *~ly adv*

ma-ter-ni-ty¹ /mə'tɜːnɪti||-zɜːr/ *n* [U] **1** *fml* the state of being a mother: *Maternity suits you!* —compare PATERNITY **2** a hospital department for the care of women before and after giving birth and for the care of newly born babies: *Trainee nurses have to work for some weeks in maternity.*

maternity² *adj* [A] for PREGNANCY and giving birth: *a maternity dress* | *the hospital's maternity ward*

maternity al-low-ance /, . . . ' / also **maternity benefit** — *n* [U] (in Britain) money provided by the government to a woman before and after the birth of her child if she does not receive MATERNITY PAY —compare MATERNITY PAY

maternity ben-e-fit /, . . . ' / *n* see MATERNITY ALLOWANCE

maternity leave /, . . . ' / *n* time that a mother spends away from work immediately before or after the birth of her baby. Maternity leave is taken with permission from the employer and usu. with part or full pay. In Britain, the law says that women who have worked for an employer for more than six months must be given maternity leave with some pay by the employer. In the US, maternity leave is decided by the employer, but many employers do not allow very much. —compare PATERNITY LEAVE

maternity pay /, . . . ' / also **Statutory Maternity Pay** (SMP) — *n* (in Britain) money paid to a woman by her employer before and after the birth of her child if she has worked for that employer for more than six months —compare MATERNITY ALLOWANCE

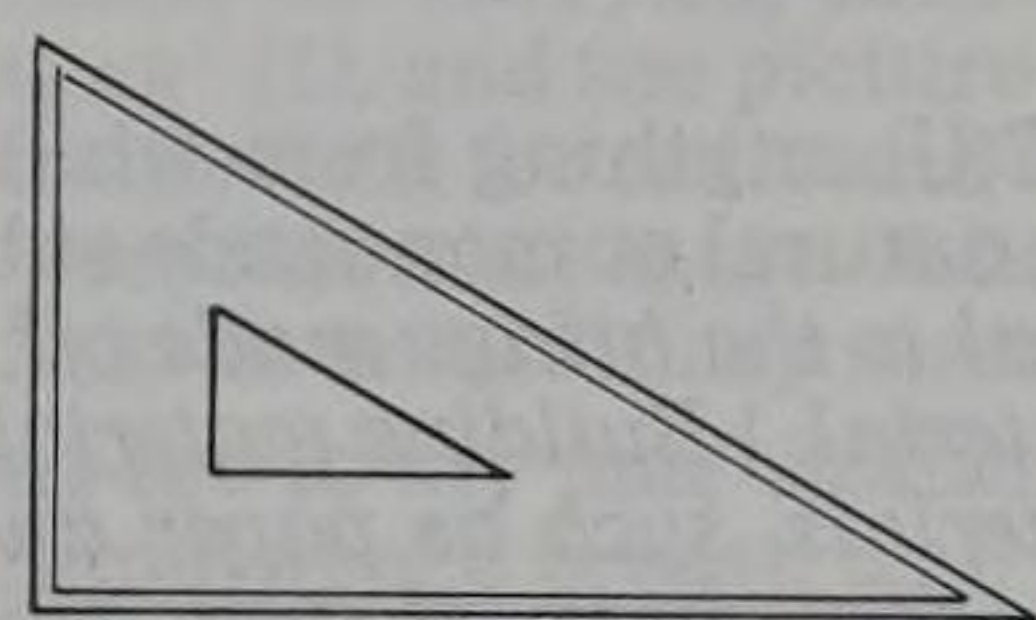
Mates /meɪts/ *tdmk* a type of CONDOM sold in Britain

mat-ey /'meɪti/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* friendly

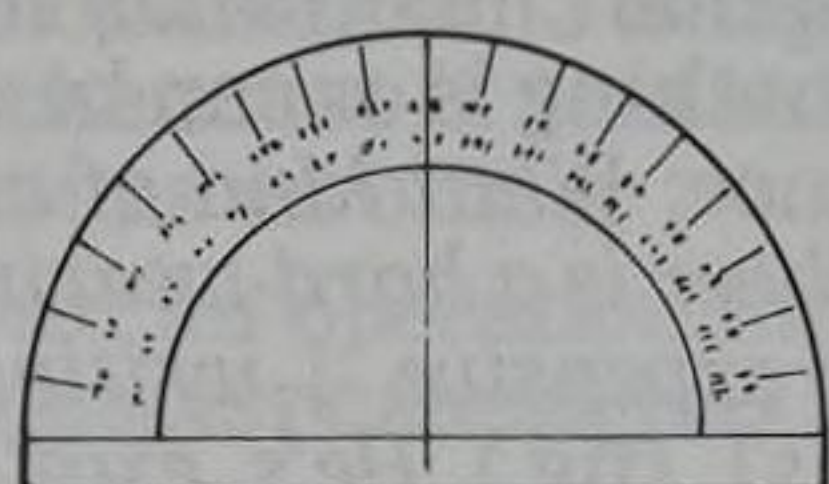
math-e-mat-i-cal /, mæθɪ'mætɪkəl/ *adj* **1** of or using mathematics: *a mathematical formula* | *a mathematical genius* **2** (of numbers, reasoning, etc.) exact; PRECISE: *It's a mathematical certainty.* (=is completely certain) | *a mathematical mind* —see picture at NOTATION — *~ly* /kli/ *adv*

math-e-ma-ti-cian /ˌmæθɪməˈtɪʃən/ *n* a person who studies and understands mathematics

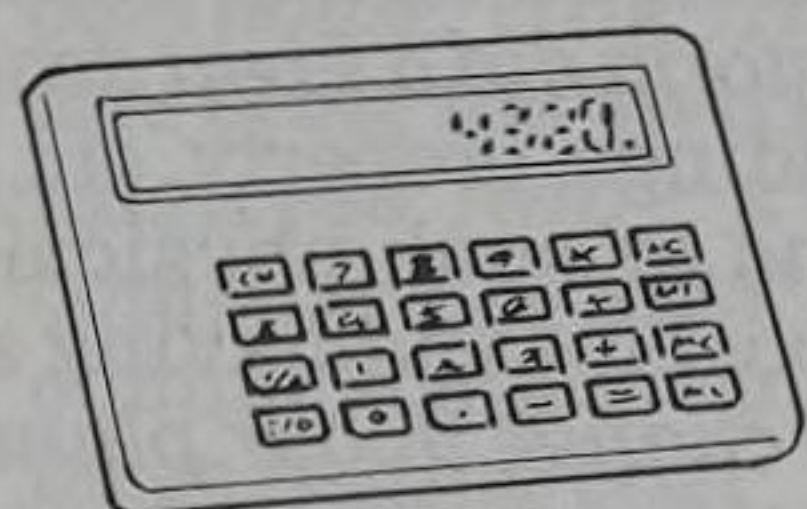
mathematical instruments



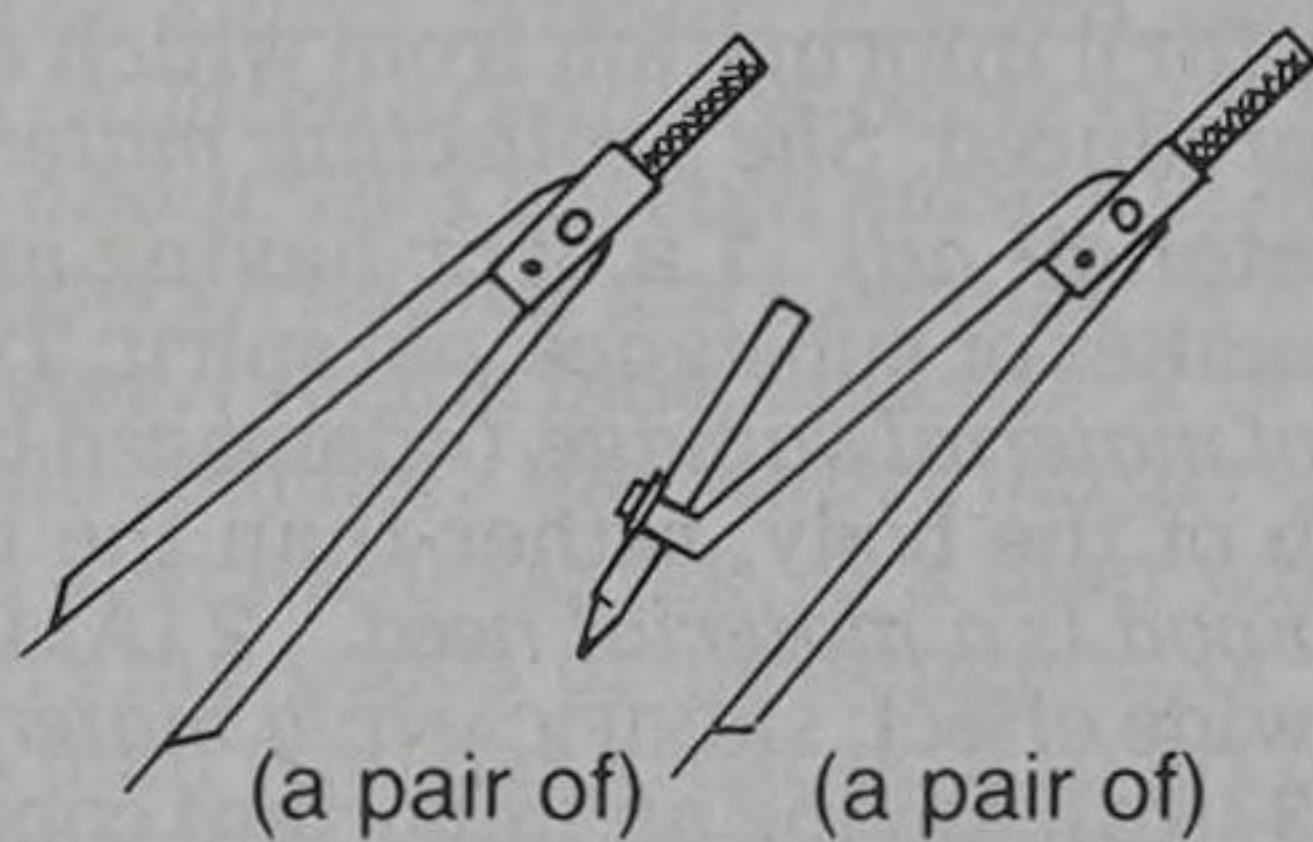
setsquare *BrE*/
triangle *AmE*



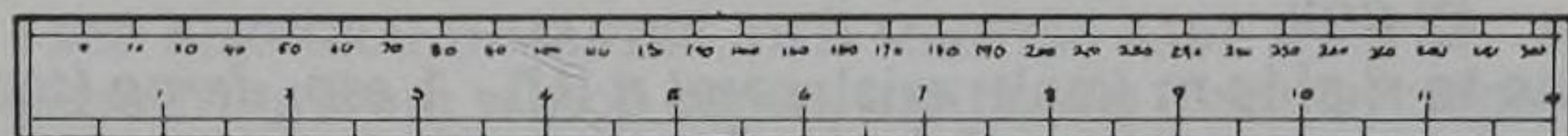
protractor



calculator



(a pair of) compasses



ruler

math-e-mat-ics /ˌmæθɪˈmætɪks/ also **maths** /mæθs/*BrE infml* || **math** /mæθ/*AmE*— *n* [U] the science of numbers and of the structure and measurement of shapes, including ALGEBRA and GEOMETRY as well as ARITHMETIC

Math-er /ˈmæðəː/, **Cotton** (1663–1728) an American PURITAN religious leader whose preaching (PREACH) helped make the fear of WITCHCRAFT worse —see also SALEM

mat-i-née /ˈmætɪneɪ||ˌmætənˈeɪ/ *n* a performance of a play or film given in the daytime, usu. in the afternoon

matinée i-dol /ˈ... ɪˌdɒl/ *n* (esp. in the 1930s and 1940s) an actor who is very popular, esp. with women

matinée jack-et /ˈ... ˌdʒæk-ət/ *n* a short woollen coat for a baby

mat-ins, **mat-tins** /ˈmætɪnz||ˈmætnz/ *n* [U+*sing./pl. v*] (often *cap.*) MORNING PRAYER

Ma-tisse /mæˈtiːs/, **Hen-ri** /ˈɒnri||ˈɑːn-/ (1869–1954) a French painter and SCULPTOR who was one of the leaders of Fauvism, a movement in French painting which used strong, pure colours

Mat-lock /ˈmætlɒk||-lɔːk/ a town in Derbyshire, England, where the local government of that COUNTY is based

ma-tri-arch /ˈmeɪtriɑːk||-ɑːrk/ *n* a woman, esp. a mother or grandmother, who rules a family or a group of people —compare PATRIARCH

ma-tri-ar-chal /ˌmeɪtriˈɑːkəl||-ˈɑːr-/ *adj* **1** ruled or controlled by women: *a matriarchal society* **2** of or like a matriarch

ma-tri-ar-chy /ˈmeɪtriɑːki||-ɑːr-/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) a social system in which the oldest woman is head of the family, and passes power and possessions on to her daughters —compare PATRIARCHY

mat-ri-cide /ˈmætrɪsaɪd/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* the murder of one's mother **2** [C] *tech* a person guilty of this crime —compare PARRICIDE, PATRICIDE

ma-tric-u-late /mæˈtrɪkjʊleɪt/ *v* [I] to become a member of a university, esp. after an examination or test —**lation** /mæˈtrɪkjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [U]

mat-ri-mo-ny /ˈmætrɪməni||-məʊni/ *n* [U] *fml* the state of being married —compare PATRIMONY —**nial** /ˌmætrɪˈməniəl-/ *adj*

ma-trix /ˈmeɪtrɪks/ *n* **matrices** /-trɪˈsɪz/ or **matrixes** *tech* **1** (in MATHEMATICS, science, etc.) an arrangement of numbers, figures, or signs in a square made up of ordered lines **2** a MOULD (hollow container) into which melted metal, plastic, etc., is poured to form it into a shape **3** the rock in which hard stones or jewels have been formed **4** a living part in which something is formed or developed, such as the substance out of which the fingernails grow

ma-tron /ˈmeɪtrən/ *n* **1** *BrE* a woman in charge of the nurses in a hospital (now officially called a **senior nursing officer**) **2** *esp. BrE* a woman in a school where

children live who is in charge of medical care, repair of clothes, living arrangements, etc.: *Ask Matron to bandage your hand.* **3** *esp. AmE* a woman who is in charge of women and/or children, e.g. in a prison or police station **4** *esp. lit or old use* an older married woman

ma-tron-ly /ˈmeɪtrənli/ *adj euph* (of a woman) middle-aged and rather fat: *a matronly figure*

matron of hon-our /ˌ... ˈɒn-ər/ *n* **matrons of honour** a married woman who helps the bride at a marriage ceremony —compare BRIDESMAID

matt, **mat**, also **matte** *AmE* /mæt/ *adj* of a dull, not shiny, surface: *matt paint* | *photographs with a matt finish* —compare GLOSS¹

mat-ted /ˈmætɪd/ *adj* twisted in a thick mass: *matted hair/branches*

mat-ter¹ /ˈmætəː/ *n* **1** [C] a subject to which one gives attention; situation or affair: *There are several important matters we must discuss.* | *He went out on a business matter.* | *That's an interesting idea, but not relevant to the matter in/at hand.* (=the subject or situation we are talking about or dealing with) | *She's committed a serious offence, but since she's so young we've decided to let the matter drop.* (=take no further action about it) | *Looking after fifteen noisy children is no laughing matter.* (=is difficult) | *It's one thing to talk about climbing Mount Everest, but to actually do so is quite another matter/another matter altogether.* (=is very much more serious/difficult) | *Whether or not it's healthier to be a vegetarian is a matter of opinion.* | *I've lost my bag, and to make matters worse it had all my money in it.* | *They wouldn't ask for help unless it were a matter of life and death.* (=a dangerously serious matter) | *He's furious with her now, but he'll forgive her eventually. It's just a matter of time.* | *Your mother would never allow it, and for that matter* (=as further concerns the same subject), *neither would I.* **2** [the (with)] a trouble or cause of pain, illness, etc.: *What's the matter; why are you crying?* | *There's nothing the matter/Nothing's the matter with me.* (=nothing is wrong) | *What's the matter with the radio? Why isn't it working?* **3** [U] the physical material of which everything that we can see or touch is made, as opposed to thought or mind; solids, liquids, and gases: *Scientists have calculated the entire amount of matter in the universe.* **4** [U] a subject itself as opposed to the form in which it is spoken or written about: *He's such a lively and entertaining speaker that his lectures are worth going to, even if the subject matter sounds dull.* **5** [U] things of a particular kind or for a particular purpose: *I must take some suitable reading matter* (=books, magazines, etc.) *for the journey.* | *advertising matter* | *vegetable matter* | *waste matter* **6** **a matter of:** **a** a little more or less than; about: *only a matter of (a few) pennies* **b** needing as a part or result: *Learning languages isn't just a matter of remembering words.* **7** **a matter of course** a usual event; something natural: *When I go out of the house, I lock the door as a matter of course.* **8** **as a matter of fact** really; in fact: *"I thought you wouldn't mind."* *"Well, as a matter of fact I don't. But you should have asked me first."* —see also MATTER-OF-FACT; see FACT (USAGE) **9** **no matter (how, where, etc.)** it makes no difference; however, wherever, etc.: *I'll finish the job, no matter how long it takes.* —see also GREY MATTER, **mince matters** (MINCE¹)

matter² *v* [I (to) often in negatives] to be important: *It doesn't matter (to me) if I miss my train, because there's another one later.* | *It had never mattered much to her that she had not had a formal education.* (=she did not mind) | *I wasn't able to speak to her before she left — not that it matters though, because I can phone her tonight.*

Mat-ter-horn /ˈmætəhɔːn||-tərhɔːrn/ [the] a mountain in the Alps near the border between Italy and Switzerland. It has attracted many climbers, and is known for its shape, which is like a PYRAMID.

matter-of-fact /ˌ... ˈfækt-/ *adj* concerned with facts, not imagination or feelings; practical: *He talked about his experiences as a prisoner of war in a very matter-of-fact way.* —**ly** *adv* —**ness** *n* [U]

Mat-thau /ˈmæθau/, **Wal-ter** /ˈwɔːltəː/ (1922–) an American actor in films and theatre, known esp. for his humorous ROLES, e.g. in *The Odd Couple*

Matthew, Saint see SAINT MATTHEW

Mat-thews /ˈmæθjuːz/, **Sir Stanley** (1915–) an English

football player who played as a professional for 33 years until he was 49. He played for England 54 times and was known esp. for his skill in running with the ball on the WING.

mat-ting /'mætiŋ/ *n* [U] rough material for making mats: coconut matting

mat-tins /'mætɪnz||'mætnz/ *n* [U+sing./pl. v] (often cap.) MORNING PRAYER

mat-tress /'mætrɪs/ *n* the part of a bed that one lies on, consisting of a strong cloth cover filled with soft material or springs: *I'll have to get a new mattress for my bed – the springs have gone in this one.*

ma-tu-ra-tion /,mætʃə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U] the process or time of becoming mature

ma-ture¹ /mə'tʃʊə/ *adj* **1** a fully grown and developed b *apprec* having or typical of a fully developed mind; sensible and reasonable: *She's very mature for her age.* | *a mature attitude* –opposite **immature** –see ADOLESCENT, ADULT **2** (of cheese, wine, etc.) old enough to be ready to be eaten or drunk **3 fml** carefully decided, after a time of thought: *On mature reflection I've decided to go by train.* **4 tech** (of a bill) ready to be paid **5** older than the usual age for something: *The Centre offers the mature learner opportunities to develop new skills.* – ~ **ly adv**

mature² *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become mature: *After six years, the wine will have matured.*

Mature, Victor (1916–) an American film actor

mature stu-dent /,mæ'tʃʊənt/ *n* BrE a student at a university or college who is aged over 25. A growing number of people are now beginning to study after having worked for some years or brought up children. Most universities and colleges encourage them and some run special courses to help them learn to study.

ma-tu-ri-ty /mə'tʃʊərɪti/ *n* [U] the state or time of being mature

maud-lin /'mɔ:dlɪn/ *adj* stupidly sad, esp. when drunk

Maugham /mɔ:zm/, **W Somerset** (1874–1965) a British writer considered to be one of the best short story writers in English. His best-known NOVEL is *Of Human Bondage*.

maul /mɔ:ɪ/ *v* [T] **1** (esp. of animals) to hurt badly by tearing the flesh: *The hunter was mauled by a lion.* **2** to handle roughly or in an unwelcome way: *If you don't stop mauling me (=handling me roughly in a sexual way) I'll slap your face!* | (fig.) *His speech sounded quite different when the newspapers had mauled it (about).*

Mau Mau /'maʊ maʊ/ [*the*] a secret political organization established in Kenya in 1952 by the Kikuyu people with the aim of driving out the Europeans. It led a bloody struggle against the British colonial (COLONY) government. Kenya gained independence in 1963.

maun-der /'mɔ:ndə/ *v* [I (ON, about)] often *derog* to talk in an unclear and usu. complaining way

Maun-dy mon-ey /'mɔ:ndi ,mɒni/ *n* [U] specially-made coins given to chosen poor people by a British king or queen in a ceremony on **Maundy Thursday**, the Thursday before Easter

Mau-pas-sant /'məʊpæsən || -,məʊpə'sa:z/, **Guy de** (1850–93) a French writer considered to be one of the great writers of short stories. He died after becoming mad owing to SYPHILIS.

Mau-ri-ac /'mɔ:ri,æk||mɔ:ri'æk/, **Fran-çois** /'frɒnswɑ:z||frɒn'swɑ:z/ (1885–1970) a French writer and winner of the Nobel prize for literature in 1952

Mau-ri-ta-ni-a /,mɔ:ri'teɪniə||,mɔ:ri-/ a country in NW Africa on the Atlantic coast; capital Nouakchott; population 1,970,000 (1989) – **nian** *n,adj*

Mau-ri-tius /mə'ri:fəs||mɔ:ri-/ an island and country in the SW Indian Ocean, an independent state within the COMMON-WEALTH(1); capital Port Louis; population 1,090,000 (1989) – **Mauritian** *n,adj*

mau-so-le-um /,mɔ:sə'li:əm/ *n* a large, often decorative stone building built over a grave or containing many graves; an important-looking TOMB

mauve /məʊv/ *adj* having a pale purple colour – **mauve** *n* [U]

ma-ven /'meɪvən/ *n* AmE a person who knows a lot about a stated subject: *a cultural/Chinese-food maven*

mav-e-rick /'mævərɪk/ *n derog in BrE* someone, esp. a politician, who is determined to be different or act differently from the rest of their group

maw /mɔ:/ *n* **1** an animal's throat or stomach **2** something which seems to swallow things up: *money disappearing into the maw of the national budget*

mawk-ish /'mɔ:kɪʃ/ *adj* (of people or behaviour) expressing love and admiration in a silly perhaps false way – ~ **ly adv** – ~ **ness** *n* [U]

max¹ /mæks/ *adj, n* [U] *infml* for MAXIMUM: *We enjoyed the party to the max.*

max²

max out *phr v* [I] AmE *sl* to do or give the maximum amount possible: *I'd really maxed out that month at work, so I just slept for three days when I had time off.*

Max Fac-tor /,mæks'fæktər/ *tdmk* a company which produces COSMETICS

max-im /'mæksɪm/ *n* a short saying that expresses a general truth or a rule for good and sensible behaviour: *"Waste not, want not" is her favourite maxim.*

max-i-mal /'mæksɪməl/ *adj fml* as great as possible: *of maximal educational value* –compare MINIMAL – ~ **ly adv**

max-i-mize also **-mise** BrE /'mæksɪmaɪz/ *v* [T] to increase to the greatest possible size or amount: *We must maximize output/our chances of success.* –compare MINIMIZE – **-mization** /,mæksɪmaɪ'zeɪʃən||-sɪmə-/ *n* [U]

Max-im's /'mæksɪmz/ a famous French restaurant and night club in Paris. They are expensive, and considered to be places where rich and famous people go.

max-i-mum /'mæksɪməm/ *adj, n* **-ma** /mə/ or **-mums** [A (of);C] (being) the largest number, amount, etc.: *What's the maximum amount of wine you're allowed to take through customs duty-free?* | *maximum speed/depth* | *He smokes (up to) a maximum of ten cigarettes a day.* | *Let me drive – you're over the maximum.* (=have more alcohol in your blood than is allowed by law when driving) –compare MINIMUM

Max-well /'mækswel/, **Rob-ert** /'rɒbət||'rɔ:bət/ (1923–91) a British PUBLISHER, newspaper owner, and businessman, born in Czechoslovakia. He was head of MIRROR GROUP NEWSPAPERS. He was sometimes called "Captain Bob". He died suddenly, falling into the water from his boat. Since his death, it has been discovered that his financial dealings were not always honest and legal.

Maxwell House /,mæks'wel||'həʊs/ *tdmk* a type of INSTANT coffee

may¹ /meɪ/ *v* 3rd person sing. **may**, *negative short form* (esp. BrE) **mayn't** [modal+to-v] **1** (used to show possibility) to be perhaps likely to: *He may come or he may not.* | *"Why hasn't he come?" "He may have missed the train."* (=perhaps he has missed it; we still do not know) | *He may have stopped to talk to someone – that's why he isn't here.* | *We will do whatever may be necessary.* –compare MIGHT¹ (1) **2** to have permission to; be allowed to (now less common than **can**): *"May I come in?" "Yes, you may."* | *May I leave this with you?* | *I may say I find your questions rather rude.* (=I think they are rude) | *May I give you a hand with the dishes?* –compare MIGHT¹ (3) **3 fml** (used when expressing a wish, usu. with the subject after the verb): *May you have a very happy married life!* (=I/we very much hope that you will have this) **4** also **might** (used, followed by **but**, when admitting a point that goes against the main thing one is saying) perhaps; ADMITTEDLY: *He may be fat, but he can still run fast.* | *You may think you're clever, but that doesn't give you the right to order me about.* (=although you think you're clever, that does not ...) | *That coat may have cost a lot of money, but it's worth it.* **5** (in CLAUSES expressing hope or purpose) will; can: *Let's talk it over, so that we may come to a decision.* | *The doctor fears that she may die.* –compare MIGHT¹ (5) **6 may well (not)** to be very likely (not) to: *His appearance has changed so much that you may well not recognize him.* | *She may well refuse to speak to you, because she's in a very bad mood.* –compare **might well** (MIGHT) **7 may/might (just) as well** to have no strong reason not to: *It's late, so I may as well go to bed.* –see CAN (USAGE), COULD (USAGE), MIGHT (USAGE), NOT (USAGE)

may² *n* [U] HAWTHORN flowers

May *n* [C;U] the fifth month of the year, between April and June: *It happened on May the sixth/on the sixth of May/(AmE) on May sixth.* | *This office opened in May 1991.* | *She started work here last May/the May before last.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** May is a Spring month and the weather is often warm. May is sometimes referred to as the "merry month of May". ◀

Ma·ya /'maɪə/ *n* [C; *the* +P] (a member of) a Native American people chiefly of the Yucatan area who had developed an established civilization before the discovery of America by Europeans — **Maya** *adj* — **Mayan** *n, adj*: *Mayan civilization/inscriptions*

May Ball /, · ' / *n* a formal dance held at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge every year in June. Students dress formally for a May Ball, and it is expensive to go to one.

may-be /'meɪbi/ *adv* perhaps; possibly: "Will they come?" "Maybe." | *Maybe it's my imagination, but it seems rather cold in here — is the window open?*

▷ **USAGE 1** **Maybe** is more informal than **perhaps**. 2 It can be used to make polite suggestions or requests: **Maybe** we should meet sometime next week. | **Maybe** I could come to your place. | **Maybe** you could move that chair. | (You could) put it over here, **maybe**. —see also **PERHAPS** (**USAGE**)◀

may-day /'meɪdeɪ/ *n* (a radio signal used as) a call for help from a ship or plane: *the plane sent out a mayday (call)*

May Day /, · ' / *n* [C;U] the first day of May, when workers' associations and political parties of the **LEFT**² (2) in some countries march through the streets **May Day** **parades** and hold public meetings, and when in former times people welcomed spring with games and dances. It is not a public holiday in Britain. In Britain there are still some local customs and celebrations although these may not be held on May Day itself but on the May Day bank holiday, the first Monday in May. In the US young children often dance around a maypole at school, and often leave small baskets of flowers at a friend's door to be found on May Day morning. —see also **MAY QUEEN**

May-fair /'meɪfeə/ an area in W central London with many clubs and hotels. It is considered to be a fashionable area where only rich people can afford to live or stay in hotels.

May-flow-er /'meɪflaʊə/ [*the*] the ship that took a group of English settlers to Plymouth, Massachusetts in the US in 1620. Many of the settlers were religious and they are usually called the **PILGRIM FATHERS**. In the US people respect a person whose family "came over on the Mayflower," but since very few people can claim this, it is not unusual for people to make jokes about it.

may-fly /'meɪflaɪ/ *n* a type of insect. The adults are very light and delicate and live for only a few days.

may-hem /'meɪhem/ *n* [U] great disorder and confusion: *The escape of the monkeys from their cage created may-hem in the zoo.*

may-n't /'meɪənt/ *esp. BrE short for*: may not

May-o /'meɪəʊ/ a **COUNTY** in the W of the Republic of Ireland

Mayo Clin-ic /'· · ' / [*the*] a medical institution and hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, famous in the US for its many excellent doctors, modern equipment, and successful treatments

may-on-naise /,meɪə'neɪz/ || 'meɪəneɪz/ || also **mayo** *AmE infml*— *n* [U] a thick cold pale yellow **SAUCE** made with eggs, oil, and **VINEGAR**, for eating with **SALADS** and other cold food. It is known to be difficult to make and many people buy it ready-made.

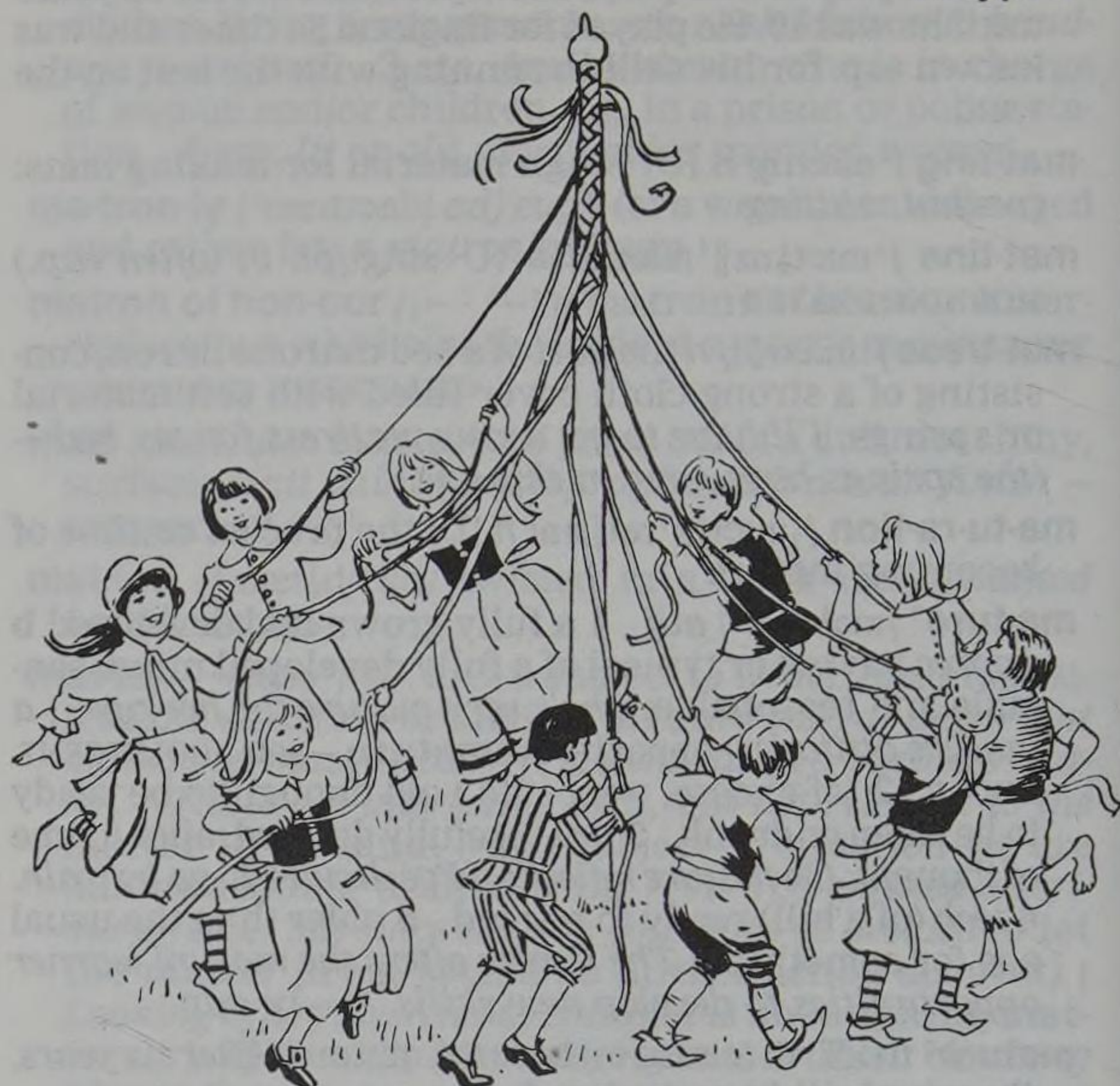
mayor /meə/ || 'meɪə/ *n* 1 *BrE* a person elected each year by a town council to be head of that city or town; the mayor often carries out duties such as opening new buildings, entertaining important visitors, and attending public ceremonies. A mayor can be a man or a woman and is addressed as "The Worshipful the Mayor of..." or "The Right Worshipful" and usu. wears a large chain of office. —compare **PROVOST** 2 *AmE* the head of government in a town or city. Mayors are usu. elected by popular vote and belong to one of the two main political parties. In large cities they are often very powerful, sometimes more so than the **GOVERNOR** of their state. — *~al adj*

mayor-al-ty /'meəɹəlti/ || 'meɪəɹəlti/ *n* [U] the position of mayor or the time during which it is held

mayor-ess /'meəɹɪs/ || 'meɪəɹɪs/ *n* the wife of a mayor or a woman chosen to receive his guests

Mayor of Cas-ter-bridge /,meə əv 'kɑ:stəbrɪdʒ/ || ,meɪə əv 'kæstə-/, **The** a **NOVEL** by Thomas Hardy (1886) describing the rise and fall of a farm worker who becomes Mayor of a town called Casterbridge but dies a poor and ruined man

maypole



may-pole /'meɪpəʊl/ *n* a tall decorated pole round which people dance on May Day, each dancer holding a **RIBBON** tied to the top of the pole and making patterns with the ribbons as they danced. In former times most villages in England had a maypole, and now maypoles are sometimes seen as part of a **FETE**. The dancers are usu. children. —see also **MAY DAY**

May Queen /, · ' / *n* a girl or young woman who is chosen and crowned as part of the May Day celebrations, usu. because she is judged to be very attractive. She wears a crown of flowers and is also called **Queen of the May**. —see also **MAY DAY**

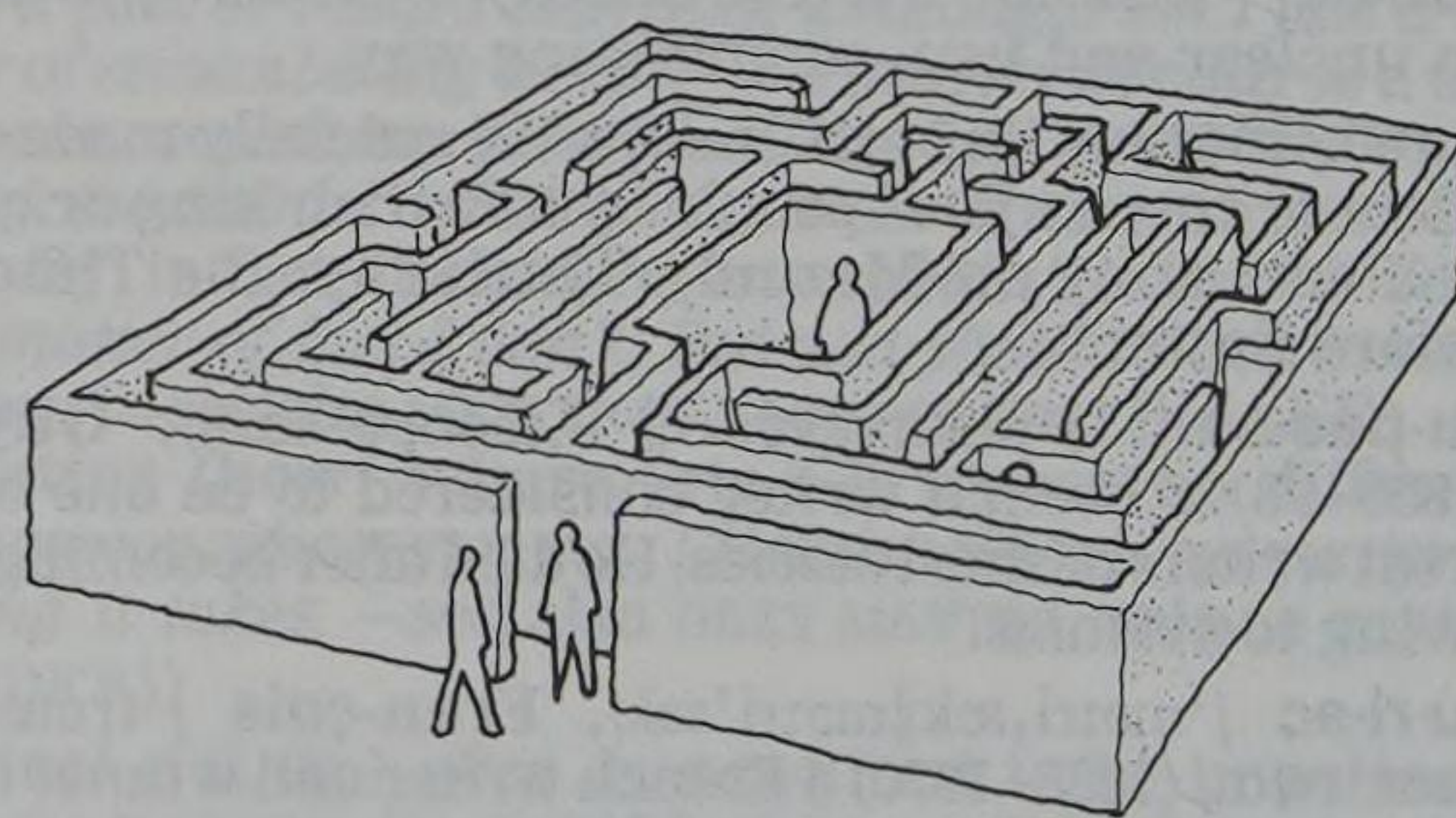
Mays /meɪz/, **Willie** (1931–) an American **BASEBALL** player who was famous in the 1950s

mayst /meɪst/ *v* **thou mayst old use or bibl** (when talking to one person) you may

Maz-a-rin Bi-ble /,mæzəɹɪn 'baɪbəl/ [*the*] a **BIBLE** (=main religious book of Christians) printed in Germany around 1455 and the earliest European book printed from movable **TYPE**

Maz-da /'mæzdə/ *tdmk* a car made by the Japanese Mazda company

maze



maze /meɪz/ *n* a system of twisting and turning paths leading to a central point. The paths are usu. separated from each other by high **HEDGES**, walls, etc., and are sometimes blocked off, so as to confuse someone who walks through them: *She was lost in the maze for several hours.* | (fig.) a maze of narrow winding streets

maz-el tov /'mæzəl tɒf/ || 'mæzəl tɔ:f/ a Jewish expression meaning good luck or best wishes

Maze Pris-on /, · ' / also **Maze**— [*the*] a prison in Northern Ireland where many prisoners, both Protestant and Catholic, are held for **TERRORIST** offences. In 1981 some IRA prisoners went on **HUNGER STRIKE** because they wanted to be regarded as political prisoners. One prisoner, Bobby Sands, was elected **MP** while on hunger strike. He and several others died.

Ma-zo-la /mə'zəʊlə/ also **Mazola Oil** /, · ' /— *n* *tdmk* [U] a kind of oil used in cooking, sold in Britain and the US

ma-zur-ka /mə'zɜ:kə/ -3:r-/ *n* (a piece of quick lively music for) a Polish dance

MB /,em 'bi:/ *abbrev. for:* Bachelor of Medicine: *Jane Doe, MB*

MBA /,em bi: 'eɪ/ Master of Business Administration; (a title for someone who has) a degree in which students learn the skills needed to be in charge of a business: *He's thinking of doing an MBA.*

Mba-ba-ne /əmba:'bɑ:ni || ,embə'bɑ:n/ a town and business centre which is the capital of Swaziland

MBE /,em bi: 'i:z/ *n* Member of the (Order of the) British Empire; an honour given to people for public service, esp. in industry or the arts

MBS /,em bi: es 'si:/ *abbrev. for:* Master of Business Science (a title for someone who has) a higher university degree in business science: *Derek Jameson, MBS*

Mc to find a name which begins with **Mc**, look under **Mac**

MC /,em 'si:/ *n* MASTER OF CEREMONIES

MCAT /'em kæt/ *n* Medical College Admissions Test, an examination which must be taken by anyone who wants to attend MEDICAL SCHOOL in the US

MCC /,em si: 'si:/ [*the*] the **Marylebone Cricket Club**; a private CRICKET club established in 1787 and based at Lord's cricket ground in London. Until 1968 it arranged all foreign tours and the England team still wear the club colours of red and yellow. The club is still responsible for the Laws of Cricket. —see also CRICKET

MCP /,em si: 'pi:/ *BrE infml abbrev. for:* male chauvinist pig; a man who behaves unreasonably towards women because he thinks them less able than men

Md *written abbrev. for:* MARYLAND

MD /,em 'di:/ *abbrev. for:* 1 Doctor of Medicine: *John Snow, MD* 2 Managing Director

MDS /,em di: 'es/ *n* Master of Dental Surgery; a British QUALIFICATION obtained by someone who wants to become a DENTIST —compare DDS

MDT /,em di: 'ti:/ *abbrev. for:* MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME

me /mi/; strong mi:/ *pron (object form of I):* *He bought me a drink. | He bought a drink for me. | Show me your photos. | Show them to me again. | That's me on the left of the photograph.* —see also ME GENERATION

▷ **USAGE Me, her, him, us, and them** are usually used in conversation after *as*, *than*, and *be*: *I'm not as clever as her. | I'm fatter than him. | It's me.* In formal writing it is possible to write **I, she, he, we, and they**: *as clever as she | fatter than he | It is I.* But, people usually try to express the idea in a different way: *I'm not as clever as she is. | I'm fatter than he is. | I am the one/the person/etc.* ◀

ME¹ /,em 'i:z/ also **post viral fatigue syndrome**— *n* [U] myalgic encephalomyelitis; an illness which causes pain in one's muscles and which makes one feel tired, weak, and unhappy. It can last for a few months or years.

ME² *written abbrev. for:* 1 MAINE 2 MIDDLE ENGLISH

me-a cul-pa /,meɪə 'kʊlpə/ *n, interj Lat* a formal statement made in a Roman Catholic religious service by a person admitting that they have sinned (SIN²): (fig.) *"Who forgot to file today's correspondence?" "Ah, mea culpa, old chap!"*

mead /mi:d/ *n* 1 [U] an alcoholic drink made from HONEY, drunk esp. formerly in England 2 [C] poet a meadow

Mead, Lake the largest RESERVOIR in the US, on the Colorado river behind the Hoover Dam

Mead¹, **Margaret** 2 (1901–78) an American anthropologist (ANTHROPOLOGY) who studied the ways in which different peoples, esp. those in the Pacific Islands, bring up children, and asked whether differences in behaviour between males and females were natural or learned. Her best-known books are *Growing Up in New Guinea* and *Coming of Age in Samoa*.

mead-ow /'medəʊ/ *n* [C;U] a field or fields of wild grass and flowers on which cattle, sheep, etc., can feed —see also WATER MEADOW

meagre *BrE* || **-ger** *AmE* /'mi:ɡə/ *adj* not enough in quantity, quality, strength, etc.: *his meagre income | a meagre diet* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

meal¹ /mi:l/ *n* 1 an amount of food eaten at one time, usu. consisting of two or more dishes: *She usually*

makes/cooks a hot meal in the evenings. | Breakfast is my favourite meal. 2 also **meal-time** /'mi:ltaɪm/— the time of eating a meal: *The family only meets at meals.* 3 **make a meal of derog** to give (something) more effort, consideration, or time than it deserves —see also SQUARE MEAL

meal² *n* [U] grain which has been crushed into a powder, esp. for flour —see also BONE MEAL, CORN MEAL, OATMEAL

meals on wheels /, · · ' · / *n* [P] a service which provides hot meals to old or sick people in their homes, delivered by car by the SOCIAL SERVICES or the WRVS in Britain, and often by VOLUNTEERS in the US

meal tick-et /' · · / *n infml* a person or organization that can be depended upon to provide help and support without asking for anything in return (from the ticket given to workers in certain companies or the army that allows them to have a free meal)

meal-y /'mi:li/ *adj* 1 like or containing MEAL² 2 pale and powdery; FLOURY: *mealy potatoes*

mealy-mouthed /, · · ' · / *adj derog* (of people or speech) expressing things indirectly, not plainly, esp. when something unpleasant must be said: *mealy-mouthed politicians/statements*

mean¹ /mi:n/ *adj* 1 [(with)] *BrE* unwilling to give or share what one has; ungenerous: *He's very mean with his money.* 2 [(to)] unkind; nasty: *It was mean of you not to let the children play in the snow. | Don't be so mean to her! | He's got a mean streak in him.* (=sometimes behaves unpleasantly) 3 esp. *AmE* bad-tempered; liking to hurt: *That's a mean dog. Be careful it doesn't bite you.* 4 [A] lit or old use of low social position: *a man of mean birth* 5 esp. lit (esp. of a place) poor or poor-looking: *mean streets* 6 sl, esp. *AmE* very good: *She makes a mean chicken stew.* 7 **no mean (something)** a very good (something): *He's no mean cook. | Running ten miles is no mean achievement.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

mean² *v* **meant** /ment/ [T not in progressive forms] 1 to represent or express (a meaning): *What does this French word mean? | The red light means "Stop".* [+that] *The sign means that cars cannot enter.* 2 to have in mind as a purpose; intend: *She said Tuesday, but she meant Thursday. | He's very angry, and means trouble.* (=intends to cause trouble) | *I mean what I say.* (=I am speaking seriously, and you should believe me.) [+to-v] *I mean to go tomorrow. | I'm sorry; I didn't mean to imply that you were dishonest.* [(that)] *He didn't express himself very clearly, but he means that he wants your help. | What do you mean, he's left?* (=I can't believe he has really left) *He said he'd stay till 6 o'clock.* [obj(i)+obj(d)] *Although she seems angry, she means you no harm. | This warning was meant for you.* [+obj+to-v] *How embarrassing! I never meant him to read what I wrote about him. | Is that blob in the corner of the picture meant to be a tree?* 3 to be a sign of: *The dark clouds mean rain.* [(that)] *That expression means that she's angry.* [+v-ing] *Missing the train means waiting* (=we will have to wait) *for an hour. | A few marks can mean the difference between success and failure in an exam.* 4 [(to)] to be of importance to the stated degree: *In running a company, strict financial management means everything. | Her work means a lot/means everything to her.* 5 **be meant to** esp. *BrE* to have to; be supposed to: *You're meant to take your shoes off when you enter a Hindu temple.* 6 **mean business** to act with serious intentions: *Watch out. I think the guy with the gun means business.* 7 **mean mischief** to have bad intentions 8 **mean well** to do or say what is intended to help, but often does not: *I agree it was a bit tactless of her to say that, but she meant well.* —see also WELL-MEANING, WELL-MEANT

▷ **USAGE** 1 The expression **I mean** /ə 'mi:n/ is often used in conversation when you want to make something you have said clearer, by explaining it, repeating it in another way, or adding new information about it: *He's really very rude. I mean, he never even says "Good morning". | My boss, I mean the person in charge of the office, left last week.* It is also used to correct something you have just said: *She plays the violin, I mean the viola, really well.* 2 The expression **I mean to say** / · · · ' · / usually shows that you disapprove of something: *He can't be allowed to behave like that. I mean to say, he's a grown man. | "She asked me to lend her my car." "Well, I mean to say!"* (=I don't approve of her asking.) 3 The expression **What do you mean ... ?** can be

used to show annoyance or disagreement with something someone has just said: **What do you mean, you don't like my cooking?** | **What do you mean by ...?** can also introduce an angry protest: **What do you mean by coming home so late?** ◀

mean³ *n* [usu. sing.] 1 an average amount, figure, or value: *The mean of 7, 9, and 14 is 10.* 2 a state or way of behaviour or course of action which is not too strong or too weak, too much or too little, but in between, in the middle position: *It's a question of finding the mean between too lenient treatment and too severe punishment.* — see also MEANS, GOLDEN MEAN

mean⁴ *adj* [A] (of measurements) average: *The mean yearly rainfall is 20 inches.* — see also GREENWICH MEAN TIME

me-an-der /mi'ændə/ *v* [I] 1 (of rivers and streams) to flow slowly, with many turns 2 to wander in a slow easy aimless way: *We usually meander down to the pub after dinner.* | (fig.) *She'd begun to meander on* (=speak in a long disordered way) *about some irrelevant topic, so the chairman shut her up.* — ~ingly *adv* — ~ings *n* [P]

mean-ie, meany /'mi:ni/ *n* infml a person who is unkind or ungenerous: *You old meanie.*

mean-ing¹ /'mi:niŋ/ *n* [C;U] 1 that which you are intended to understand by something spoken or written, or by something expressed in other ways, such as by signs: *One word can have several meanings.* 2 importance or value: *He says his life has lost its meaning (for him) since his wife died.* | *I can't quite grasp the meaning of these figures.* 3 an aim or intention, esp. a hidden one: *What's the meaning of this?* (often said when demanding an explanation of something that makes one angry) | *a look full of meaning*

meaning² *adj* [A] giving an effect of important (hidden) meaning or thought: *a meaning look* — see also WELL-MEANING

mean-ing-ful /'mi:niŋfəl/ *adj* having important meaning or value: *a meaningful statement* | *At such an advanced age they can no longer play a meaningful role in the company's affairs.* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

mean-ing-less /'mi:niŋləs/ *adj* without meaning or purpose: *a meaningless existence* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

means /mi:nz/ *n* **means** 1 [C (of)+sing./pl. v] a method or way (of doing): *The quickest means of travel is by plane.* | *Use whatever means you can to persuade him.* | *I gave him a bicycle as a means to an end* (=a way of getting a result): *I want him to take more exercise.* | *Have you got any means of identification* (=a document showing your name and address)? 2 [P] money, income, or wealth, esp. large enough to afford all one needs: *Have you the means to support a family?* | *a man of means* (=a rich man) | *They have private means.* (=get income which they do not have to work for) | *to live beyond one's means* (=spend too much) 3 *by 'all means polite* certainly; please do: *"May I borrow your paper?" "By all means."* 4 *by means of* by using: *We express our thoughts by means of words.* 5 *by 'no means fml* not at all: *It is by no means certain.* — see also WAYS AND MEANS, not by any manner of means (MANNER)

means test /'· / *n* an inquiry into the amount of money someone has, esp. to find out if they have so little that they can be given money by the state — **means-test** *v* [T]: *means-tested benefits*

mean streets /'· / *n* [P] areas in cities which are dangerous and difficult to live in: *a coming-of-age drama about young black men growing up on the mean streets of south-central Los Angeles*

meant /ment/ *past tense and participle of MEAN*

mean-time /'mi:ntaim/ *n* **in the meantime** MEANWHILE (1): *The new secretary won't come until next week; in the meantime we've arranged for a temporary one.*

mean time /'· / *n* see GREENWICH MEAN TIME

mean-while /'mi:nwail/ *adv* 1 in the time between two events: *They'll be here soon. Meanwhile, let's have coffee.* 2 during the same period of time: *Eve was cutting the grass, (and) meanwhile Les was planting roses.* 3 **mean-while, back at the ranch** a phrase used in old WESTERNS when the scene changes to show what is happening at the RANCH (=house) while some of the characters have been away from it. The phrase is often used humorously.

meas-sles /'mi:zəlz/ *n* [(the) U] an infectious illness in

which the sufferer has a fever and small red spots on the face and body — see also GERMAN MEASLES

meas-ly /'mi:zli/ *adv* infml derog of too small value, size, etc.: *a measly little gift* — **liness** *n* [U]

mea-su-ra-ble /'meʒərəbəl/ *adj* large enough or not too large to be measured: *measurable progress* — see also IM-MEASURABLE — **bly** *adv*: *Her temperature has not altered measurably over the last twelve hours.*

mea-sure¹ /'meʒə/ *n* 1 [C often pl.] an action taken to bring about a certain result: *The government has promised to take measures to help the unemployed.* | *If they won't go away quietly, we'll have to use stronger measures.* (=act more firmly) 2 [S;U (of)] fml an amount or quality: *He has not become rich, but he has had a certain measure of success/some measure of success.* | *There are no words to express the full measure of my gratitude.* | *His latest book is based in large measure* (=mostly) *on the work of Cohen.* | *His rudeness is beyond measure.* (=great; without limit) | *I don't trust them in that shop; they give you short measure.* (=less than the correct amount of goods) 3 [C (of)] an amount or unit in a measuring system: *An hour is a measure of time.* 4 [C] an instrument or container used for calculating the stated amount, length, weight, etc.: *Pour the chemical mixture into a litre measure.* — see also TAPE MEASURE 5 [U] tech a system for measuring amount, size, weight, etc.: *An ounce in liquid measure is different from an ounce in dry measure.* 6 [C] old-fash a musical BAR or poetic METRE (=a pattern of repeated sounds) 7 **for good measure** in addition: *After I'd weighed the apples, I put in another one for good measure.* 8 **take someone's measure/get the measure of someone** to judge what someone is like — see also HALF MEASURES, MADE-TO-MEASURE, tread a measure (TREAD¹)

measure² *v* 1 [I;T] to find the size, length, amount, degree, etc., of (something) in standard units: *He measured the height of the cupboard.* | *The men measured the fence.* | *The dress designer measured her client for her new clothes.* 2 [T] to show or record (length, temperature, etc.): *A clock measures time.* 3 [L+n; not in progressive forms] to have the stated size: *That old tree must measure at least 30 metres from top to bottom.* | *He measures more round the waist than he used to.* 4 **measure one's length** BrE esp. lit to fall flat on the ground

measure sbdy./sthg. **against** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to see if the size of (something) is right by comparing it with (something else): *I measured the coat against her and found it was too long.*

measure sthg. **off** *phr v* [T] to take (a measured length) from a longer length: *He measured off six yards of cloth.*

measure sthg. **out** *phr v* [T] to take (a measured quantity) from a larger quantity: *To make the cake, first measure out 250 grams of flour and 100 grams of butter.*

measure up *phr v* [I (to)] to have good enough qualities: *I'm afraid he just didn't measure up (to the job).*

mea-sured /'meʒəd/ *adj* careful; exact; steady: *He spoke in measured tones.*

Measure for Measure /'· · / a play (COMEDY) by William Shakespeare written in 1604

mea-sure-less /'meʒələs/ *adj* esp. lit limitless; too great to be measured

mea-sure-ment /'meʒəmənt/ *n* 1 [U] the act of measuring 2 [C usu. pl.] a length, height, etc., found by measuring, esp. by measuring part of the body: *What's your waist measurement?* | *I'll just take your measurements* (=measure you), *sir.*

measuring cup /'· · / *n* a type of cup which holds an exact amount, used in American cooking: *a set of measuring cups consisting of ¼, ½, ¾, and 1 cup measures.*

measuring jug /'· · / *n* a glass or plastic JUG marked down the side with measurements and used in cookery for measuring INGREDIENTS: *Pour a pint of milk into a measuring jug.* — see picture at JUG

meat /mi:t/ *n* [U] 1 the flesh of four-footed animals and birds used for food: *His religion forbids the eating of meat.* | *There's not much meat on that bone/chicken.* | *What shall we have for the meat course?* — see also RED MEAT, WHITE MEAT 2 valuable material, ideas, etc.: *It was a clever speech, but there was no real meat in it.* 3 old use food (esp. in the phrase **meat and drink**) 4 **be meat and drink to** to give great enjoyment to: *Football is meat and drink to him.* 5 infml **easy meat** someone or something that can easily be taken advantage of: *She was easy*

meat. **6 one man's meat is another man's poison** saying things that are liked by one person may not be liked by another person

▷ **USAGE** The meat from some animals has a different name from the animal itself. For example, the meat from a **cow** is called **beef**, the meat from a **pig** is **pork** or **ham** or **bacon**, the meat from a **calf** (=a young cow) is **veal**, the meat from a **deer** is **venison**, and the meat from a **sheep** is **mutton**. But the meat from a **lamb** is **lamb**, and for birds the same word is used for both the meat and the creature: *Shall we have chicken or duck for dinner?* ◀

meat and po-ta-toes /ˌiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ *n* [the] *AmE* the most important part of a matter or situation: *Let's get down to the meat and potatoes: how much are you going to pay me for this?*

meat and two veg /ˌiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ *n* [U] (what is considered to be) the typical British meal consisting of some meat and two different vegetables: *I prefer to stick to my meat and two veg.* | *I'm a meat and two veg man.*

meat-ball /ˈmi:t.bɔ:l/ *n* a small round ball of finely cut-up meat

Meath /mi:ð, mi:θ/ a COUNTY in the NE of the Republic of Ireland, known for its good farming land

meat-head /ˈmi:t.hed/ *n* *AmE sl* a stupid person

meat-loaf /ˈmi:t.ləʊf/ *n* [C;U] a dish of meat and other INGREDIENTS, cut up very small, mixed, shaped into a loaf and cooked in an OVEN: *savoury meatloaf*

Meat Loaf /ˈiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ (1948–) an American HEAVY METAL performer known for his very large size

meat-pack-ing /ˈiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ *n* [U] *AmE* the preparation of dead animals for sale as meat: *the meat-packing industry* — **packer** *n*

meat wag-on /ˈiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ *n sl* **1** an AMBULANCE **2** a HEARSE **3** a police VAN

meat-y /ˈmi:t.i/ *adj* **1** full of meat **2** *infml* full of valuable ideas: *a meaty lecture* — **iness** *n* [U]

mecca /ˈmekə/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] (sometimes *cap.*) a place that many people wish to reach (from Mecca, the holiest city of Islam): *Lord's cricket ground is the cricketer's mecca.* | *This resort is a mecca for tourists in the summer.*

Mecca a city in Saudi Arabia where the PROPHET Muhammad was born, considered the holiest city of Islam. Non-Muslims are not allowed there, but every Muslim must try to go there in his or her lifetime.

Mec-ca-no /mɛˈkɑːnəʊ/ *n* [U] *BrE tdmk* a toy CONSTRUCTION set of small metal or plastic pieces used to build machines and models: *a battery-powered model crane made of Meccano*

me-chan-ic /miˈkænɪk/ *n* a person who is skilled in using, repairing, etc., machinery: *a motor mechanic*

me-chan-i-cal /miˈkænɪkəl/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of or moved, worked, or produced by machinery: *a mechanical digger* **2** *often derog* (done) without thought or feeling; (done) from habit rather than will: *He was asked the same question so many times that the answer became mechanical.* — **ly** /kli/ *adv*

mechanical en-gi-neer-ing /ˌiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ *n* [U] the branch of ENGINEERING which includes the use of mechanical power, and the DESIGN and production of machines and tools — **mechanical engineer** *n*

me-chan-ics /miˈkænɪks/ *n* **1** [U] the science of the action of forces on objects **2** [(the) P (of)] the ways in which something works, produces results, etc.: *The subcommittee will work out the mechanics of setting up the scheme.*

mech-a-nis-m /ˈmekənɪzəm/ *n* (the arrangement and action of the parts of) a machine: *The clock doesn't go; there's something wrong with the mechanism.* | (fig.) *the mechanism of the brain* | (fig.) *the mechanism of local government*

mech-a-nis-tic /ˈmekənɪstɪk/ *adj* tending to explain all actions of living things as if they were machines: *a mechanistic view of the universe* — **ally** /kli/ *adv*

mech-a-nize also **-nise** *BrE* /ˈmekənəɪz/ *v* [T] to use machines for (a job), instead of using the effort of human beings or animals: *to mechanize an industrial process* | *mechanized farming* — **nization** /ˌmekənəɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

mechanized war-fare /ˌiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ *n* [U] the use of modern machines, esp. TANKS and HELICOPTERS, in war

M Econ *abbrev. for:* Master of Economics (a title for someone who has) a higher university degree in ECONOMICS: *Arnold Green, M Econ*

Med /med/ *infml*, **The** (the area surrounding) the Mediterranean Sea: *luxury holidays in the Med*

M Ed /ˌem ˈed/ *n* Master of Education; a higher university degree in teaching

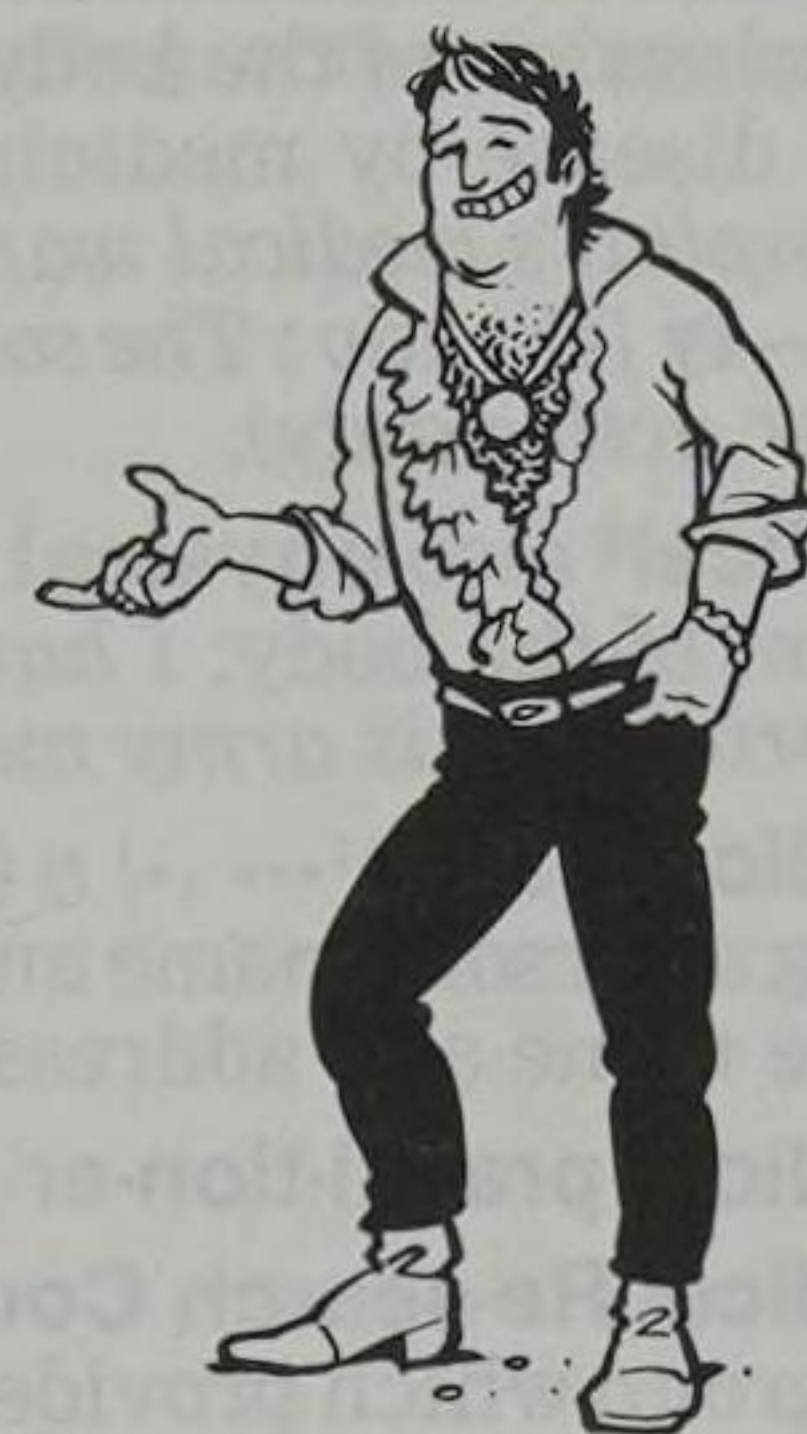
med-al /ˈmedl/ *n* a round flat piece of metal, or a cross, with a picture and/or words marked on it, which is given to a person as an honour for an act of bravery or skill, or in memory of something important: *an Olympic gold medal*

me-dal-li-on /mɛˈdæliən/ *n* a round medal like a large coin, usu. worn round the neck for decoration

me-dal-li-on man /ˌiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ *n*

BrE infml derog a type of man who wears a medallion, often with an open shirt, tight trousers, and other jewellery. The popular image of a medallion man is of a man with a hairy chest trying to look younger than he is. He thinks he is very MASCULINE and attractive to women, but most women think his appearance and the way he speaks to them is stupid.

medallion man



med-al-list *BrE* || **medalist**

AmE /ˈmedl-ɪst/ *n* a person who has won a medal in sport or in a competition: *He was the silver medallist in the 800 metres.*

Medal of Hon-or /ˌiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ see CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

Me-dan /meɪˈdɑːn/ the largest city in Sumatra in Indonesia

Med-a-war /ˈmedəwər/, **Sir Peter** (1915–87) a British ZOOLOGIST, known for his work on the understanding of the IMMUNE system. He shared the Nobel prize in 1960 and in 1959 gave the Reith Lectures on the future of man.

med-dle /ˈmedl/ *v* [I (in, with)] to take too much interest in, or take action about other people's private affairs; INTERFERE — **dlr** *n*

med-dle-some /ˈmedlsəm/ *adj* (of people or behaviour) meddling: *a meddlesome old man* — **ness** *n* [U]

Me-dea /mɛˈdiə/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a princess with magic powers, who helped Jason to win the Golden Fleece

Me-del-lin /medɪˈliːn||, medəlˈliːn/ a city in the NW of Colombia which is known esp. as a drug centre and the home of DRUG BARONS

me-di-a /ˈmiːdiə/ also **mass media** *fml* — *n* [(the) + *sing./pl.* *v*] the newspapers, television, and radio: *The media have/has a lot of power today.* | *government control over the media* — see also MEDIUM² (1)

media cov-er-age /ˌiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ *n* [U] the amount of time and space given to a subject or an event in the newspapers and on radio and television: *The Gulf War got massive media coverage.*

media e-vent /ˌiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ *n* an event that is not very important but is widely reported by the media, esp. one that is deliberately made to happen only so that the media coverage makes someone or something involved in it seem important or interesting

media hype /ˌiː.ə.ˈtəʊz/ *n* [U] *infml, derog* a lot of attention given to a subject or an event by the newspapers or television, making the subject seem much more important than it really is: *People only went to see that film because of the media hype.*

med-i-ae-val /ˌmediˈiːvəl||, miː-/ *adj* MEDIEVAL

me-di-al /ˈmiːdiəl/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] *tech* in the middle position: *a medial consonant* (=between two vowels) — **ly** *adv*

me-di-an¹ /ˈmiːdiən/ *n tech* **1** a line passing from a point of a TRIANGLE to the centre of the opposite side **2** also **median strip** — *AmE* for a CENTRAL RESERVATION

median² *adj* [A *no comp.*] *tech* in or passing through the middle

me-di-ate /ˈmiːdiət/ *v* **1** [I (between, in)] to act as a

peacemaker between opposing sides: *The government mediated between the workers and the employers.* **2** [T] to produce by mediating: *The army leaders have mediated a cease-fire/a settlement.* —**ator** *n* —**-ation** /,mɪˈdiːeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

med-ic /ˈmedɪk/ also **medico** — *n* *infml* **1** a medical doctor or student **2** *AmE* a military person trained in medical treatment, esp. one working in time of war

med-ic-aid /ˈmedɪkeɪd/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) (in the US) a system by which the government helps to pay the medical costs of people on low incomes. It is often criticized by its users and others and is generally thought to be not as good as private medical care. —compare **MEDICARE** and see also extra information on page 829

med-i-cal /ˈmedɪkəl/ *adj* **1** of medicine and treating the sick: *a medical student* | *a medical examination* (=an examination of the body by a doctor) **2** of the treatment of disease by medicine rather than by operation: *the hospital's medical wards* —compare **MEDICINAL**, **SURGICAL** —**~ly** /kli/ *adv*: *The soldier was pronounced medically fit (for active duty).*

medical² also **physical** *esp. AmE* — *n* a medical examination of the body: *I have to have a medical before going abroad.* | *his army medical*

medical card /ˈ... / *n* (in Britain) an official card showing a person's name and address, their NHS number, and the name and address of their doctor

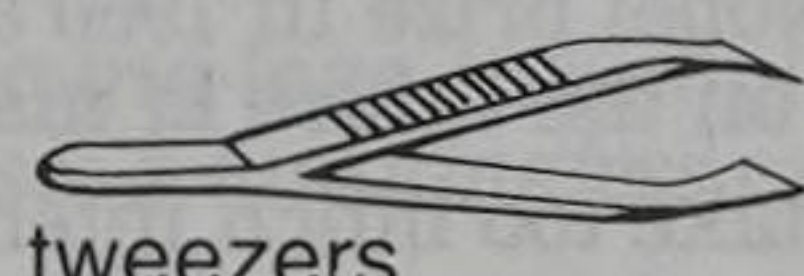
medical prac-ti-tion-er /,... / *n* *BrE fml* a doctor

Medical Re-search Coun-cil /,... / [*the*] a group which provides money from the government for medical RESEARCH in universities, research institutions, and hospitals in Britain

medical school /ˈ... / also **med school** *AmE infml* — *n* a school where people study to become doctors

me-dic-a-ment /mɪˈdɪkəmənt, ˈmedɪ-/ *n* *fml or tech* a substance used on or in the body to treat a disease; medicine

medical equipment



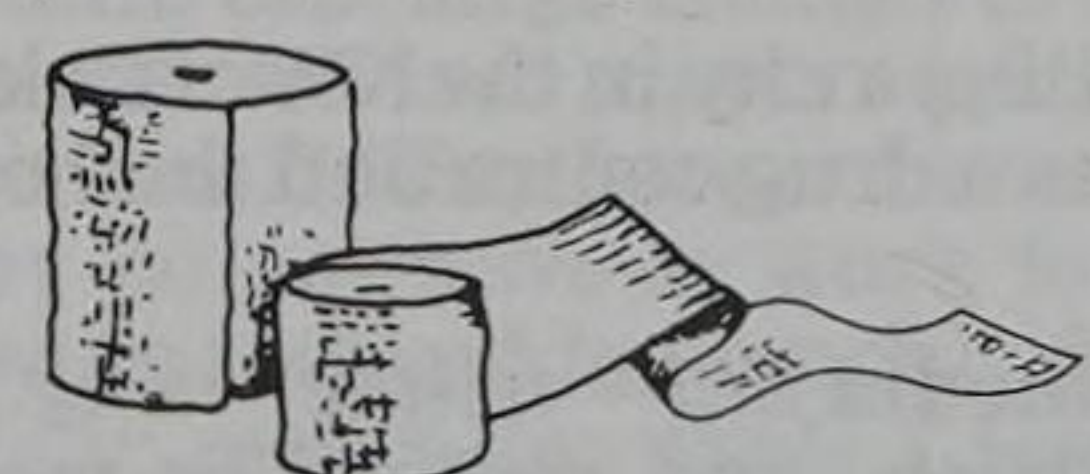
tweezers



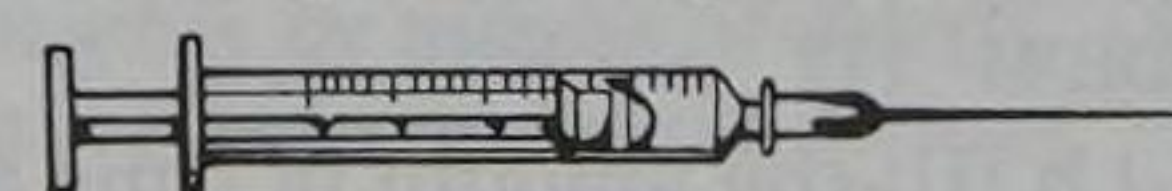
thermometer



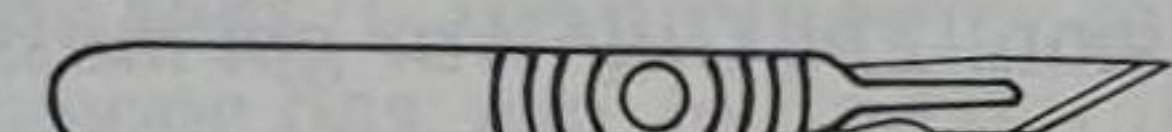
plasters *BrE*/ gauze *AmE*



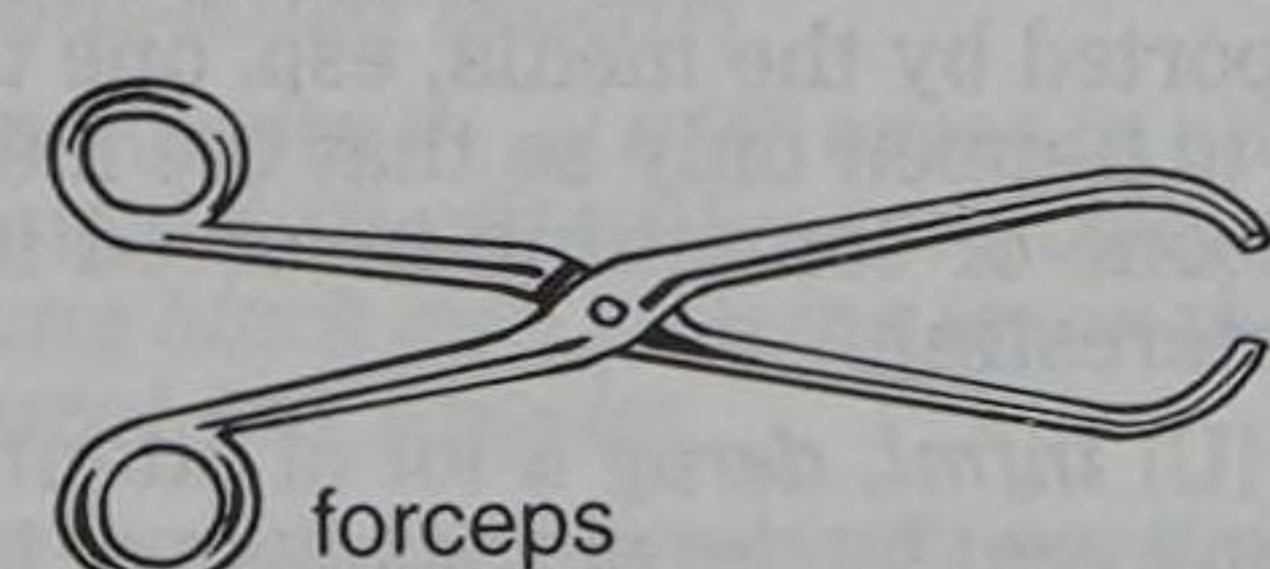
bandages *BrE*/ gauze *AmE*



syringe



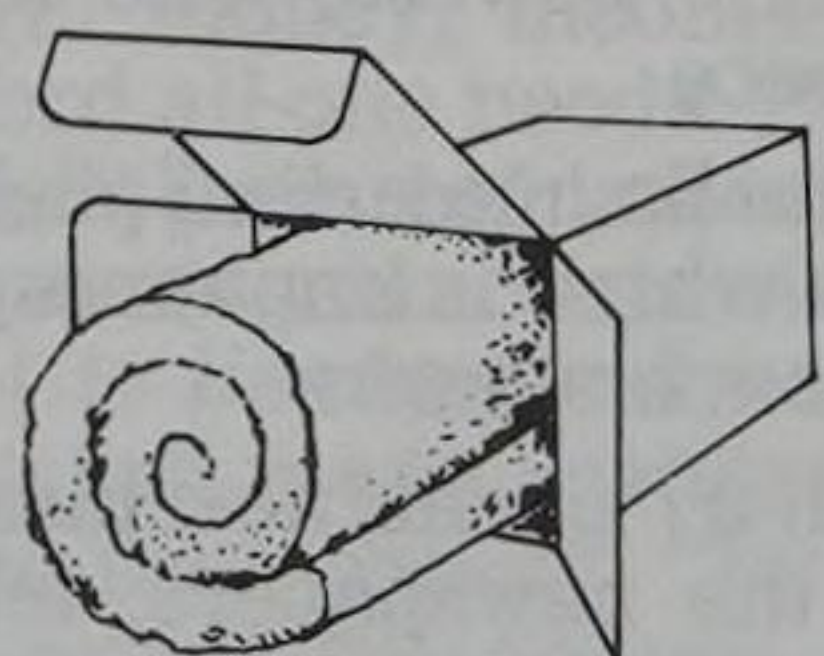
scalpel



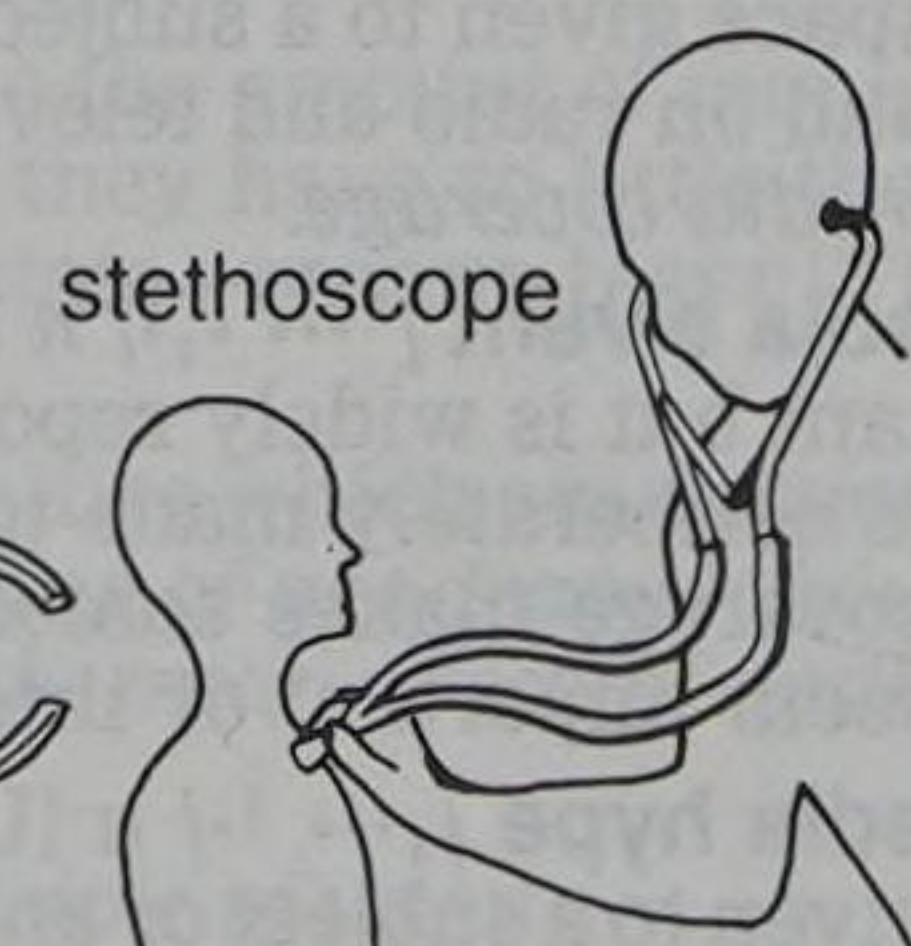
forceps



dropper



cotton wool *BrE*/
cotton *AmE*



stethoscope

med-i-care /ˈmedɪkeə/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) (in the US and Canada) a system of medical care provided by the government, esp. for old people —compare **MEDICAID** —and see also extra information on page 829

med-i-cated /ˈmedɪkeɪtɪd/ *adj* including or mixed with a substance for diseased conditions: *medicated shampoo*

med-i-ca-tion /,medɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] *esp. AmE* a medical substance, esp. a drug; medicine: *She's on medication for her heart.* | *I've tried several different medications and none of them work.*

Med-i-ci /ˈmedɪtʃi/ the name of an Italian family that

owned a bank and that ruled Florence from the 15th to the 18th century and spent much of their wealth on the arts

me-di-ci-nal /mɪˈdɪsənəl/ *adj* **1** used as medicine: *medicinal alcohol* (=not for drinking) **2** used to encourage good health. Some people say that when they drink strong alcoholic drink, e.g. WHISKY, it is for medicinal purposes, but usu. they are saying it humorously: *I always keep brandy in the house, but purely for medicinal purposes.* —compare **MEDICAL** —**~ly** *adv*

medi-cine /ˈmedsən/ *n* **1** [C;U] a substance used for treating illness, esp. a liquid to be drunk: *a bottle/a dose of medicine* | *Have you taken your medicine?* | *the medicine cupboard* | (fig.) *The best medicine for you right now would be a good holiday.* —see picture at **BOTTLE** **2** [U] the science of treating and understanding illness: *preventative medicine* | *a doctor of medicine* —see also extra information on page 825 **3** *give someone a taste/dose of their own medicine* *infml* to treat someone as (badly as) they have treated others, as a punishment **4** *take one's medicine* to accept punishment or unpleasantness

medicine man /ˈ... / also **medicine wom-an** *fem.* /ˈ... / — *n* a person esp. among Native Americans who is recognized by the tribe as having knowledge and experience of medicinal plants and practices and as being able to help or cure people, often with the help of the spirit world —compare **SHAMAN**, **WITCHDOCTOR**

med-i-co /ˈmedɪkəʊ/ *n* —**cos** *infml* a **MEDIC**

med-i-e-val, **mediaeval** /,medɪˈi:vəl/ *adj* **1** of the period in history between about AD 1100 and 1500 (the Middle Ages) **2** *infml derog* very old or old-fashioned: *The plumbing in their house is positively medieval!*

Me-di-na /meˈdɪnə, mɪ-/ a city in Saudi Arabia that has the TOMB of Muhammad. To Muslims it is the most holy place except for Mecca. Non-Muslims are not allowed there.

me-di-o-cre /,mɪˈdiːəʊkə/ *adj* neither very good nor very bad, but usu. not good enough: *a mediocre story*

me-di-oc-ri-ty /,mɪˈdiːəʊkrɪti/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being mediocre **2** [C] a person who is not very good at anything

med-i-tate /ˈmedɪteɪt/ *v* **1** [I (on, upon);T] to think seriously or deeply (about): *He meditated (on the matter) for two days before giving his answer.* [+*v-ing*] *I hear you're meditating giving up your job.* (=forming a possible intention to do so) **2** [I] to fix the attention on one idea or activity, having cleared the mind of thoughts, esp. for religious reasons and/or to gain a calm peaceful mind

med-i-ta-tion /,medɪˈteɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] also **meditations** *pl.* — the act or time of meditating: *He interrupted my meditations.* **2** [U] the practice of training the mind and body to become less active for certain regular periods, esp. so as to be able to control it better and use it more effectively

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the 1960s and 1970s meditation as practised by the Indian Maharishi Mahesh Yogi became popular among young people who were not religious but were looking for a relaxed physical and mental state. It was thought of as part of the HIPPI movement and considered rather strange and silly by esp. older people. ◀

3 [C (on, upon) *often pl.*] a piece of deep thought on a subject, expressed in speech or writing

med-i-ta-tive /ˈmedɪtətɪv/ *adj* thoughtful; showing deep thought —**~ly** *adv*

Med-i-ter-ra-ne-an /,medɪˈteɪrɪniən/ also **Mediterranean Sea** /,... /, **Med** *infml* — [*the*] a large INLAND sea surrounded by the countries of southern Europe, N Africa and the Middle East. British people connect the Mediterranean with hot summers and warm winters. The area, esp. the European coasts and the islands, are popular places for holidays and are thought of as very ROMANTIC. —**Mediterranean** *adj*: *a Mediterranean climate*

me-di-um /ˈmɪdɪəm/ *adj* of middle size, amount, quality, value, etc.: *a medium-sized apple* | *of medium height* | *a medium wine* (=not too sweet or too dry)

medium² *n* —**-dia** /diə/ or **-diums** **1** a method for giving information; form of art: *He writes stories, but the theatre is his favourite medium.* | *Television can be a medium for giving information and opinions, for amusing people, and for teaching them.* —see also **MEDIA** **2** a substance in

Medicine in Britain

In Britain there is a NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (the NHS), which is paid for by taxes and national insurance, and in general people do not have to pay for medical treatment. Every person is registered (REGISTER(1)) with a doctor in their local area, known as a GENERAL PRACTITIONER or GP. This means that their name is on the GP's list, and they may make an appointment to see the doctor or may call the doctor out to visit them if they are ill. People do sometimes have to pay part of the cost of drugs that the doctor prescribes, (PRESCRIBE). GPs are trained in general medicine but are not specialists in any particular subject. If a patient needs to see a specialist doctor, they must first go to their GP and then the GP will make an appointment for the patient to see a specialist at a hospital or clinic.

Although everyone in Britain can have free treatment under the NHS, it is also possible to have treatment done **privately**, for which one has to pay. Some people have private health insurance to help them pay for private treatment. Under the NHS, people who need to go to hospital (e.g. for an operation) may have to wait a long time on a waiting list for their treatment. If they pay for the treatment, they will probably get it more quickly.

Anyone who is very ill can call an AMBULANCE and get taken to hospital for free urgent medical treatment. Ambulances are a free service in Britain.

Medicine in the US

Unlike Britain, the US does not have a national health care service. The government does help pay for some medical care for people who are on low incomes (through the MEDICAID scheme) and for old people (through the MEDICARE scheme), but most people buy insurance to help pay for medical care. Some people cannot afford insurance but are not poor enough to get government help. The cost of medical insurance and the problems of those who cannot afford it are an important political subject.

When people are ill, they usually go first to a general practitioner (or INTERNIST). Unlike in Britain, however, people sometimes go straight to a specialist, without seeing their general practitioner first. Children are usually taken to a PEDIATRICIAN (=a doctor who is a specialist in the treatment of children). Many women make yearly appointments to see a gynecologist (=a doctor who is a specialist in women's health), as well as going to their general doctor when they are ill. As in Britain, if a patient needs to see a specialist doctor, their general doctor will usually give them the name of one.

Doctors do not go to people's homes when they are ill. People always make appointments to see the doctor in the doctor's office. In emergencies (EMERGENCY), people call for an ambulance. Hospitals must treat all emergency patients, even if the patient does not have medical insurance. The government would then help pay for some of the cost of the medical care.

Alternative medicine

Medical treatments which are used instead of drugs, surgery, and other officially accepted methods of treatment are known as ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE or COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE. These more natural methods of treating illness include HOMEOPATHY, ACUPUNCTURE, OSTEOPATHY, AROMATHERAPY, CHIROPRACTIC, and REFLEXOLOGY. Alternative medicine is not available under the National Health service in Britain, and people who use it have to pay for it when they receive their treatment. Since the beginning of the 1980s, alternative medicine has become more and more popular with people and, although it is not officially accepted by the medical profession, some doctors do accept that such methods can be effective in treating some types of illness.

which objects or living things exist, or through which a force travels: *A fish in water is in its natural medium.* | *Sound travels through the medium of air.* **3** a middle position: *There's a happy medium* (=a correct average course of action) *between eating all the time and not eating at all!* **4** the medium is the message *quote* a phrase used by Marshall McLuhan meaning that the way in which people receive information has more influence on what they think than the information itself

medium³ *n* -di-ums a person who claims to have the power to receive messages from the spirits of the dead

medium dry /,... ' / *adj* (of wine) having only slight sweetness and fruit taste —see also DRY¹ (6)

medium of exchange /,... ' / *n* something commonly accepted in exchange for goods and services and representing a standard of value

medium wave /,... ' / *written abbrev. MW n* [U] radio broadcasting or receiving on waves of between about 150 and 550 metres in length —compare LONG WAVE, SHORT WAVE

med-lar /'medlə/ *n* (a small tree with) a fruit like a wild apple, eaten when partly decayed

med-ley /'medli/ *n* **1** [(of)] a mass or crowd of different types mixed together: *a medley of different nationalities* **2** a piece of music made up of parts of other musical works: *a medley of the Beatles' greatest hits* **3** a swimming race in which the swimmers swim distances in four different swimming STROKES (BACKSTROKE, BREASTSTROKE, BUTTERFLY, and FREESTYLE)

med school /' / *n* AmE *infml* for MEDICAL SCHOOL

me-dul-la ob-lon-ga-ta /mɪˌdʌlə ˌɒblɒŋˈɡɑːtə/ - ,ɑːblɒŋ- / *n* **medulla oblongata**, **medullae oblongatae** /-li-, -ti-/ *med* the part of the BRAIN which continues from the SPINAL CORD into the back of the head and controls many important activities such as breathing

Me-du-sa /mɪˌdʒuːzə/ -'duːsə/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a woman who had snakes for hair and turned everyone who looked at her into stone. She was killed by Perseus, who protected himself by holding his shield in front of him so that Medusa could not see him. —see also GORGON and see colour picture on page 423

Med-way /'medweɪ/ [*the*] a river in Kent in the SE of England which flows through the **Medway Towns** (Rochester, Gillingham and Chatham) and joins the river Thames near the sea

meek /miːk/ *adj* **1** (of people or behaviour) gentle and uncomplaining; accepting others' actions and opinions without argument: *She won't object — she's so meek and mild.* | *He's as meek as a lamb.* **2** blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth *saying from the Bible* (a phrase used when talking about quiet, gentle people achieving success, wealth or power): *Are the meek inheriting the earth?* | *Whether we like it or not, it is the swots who will inherit the earth.* — ~ *ly adv*: *He nodded meekly.* — ~ *ness n* [U]

meer-schaum /'miːʃəm/ -'miːər- / *n* a pipe for smoking tobacco, made of hard white clay

meet¹ /miːt/ *v* **met** /met/ **1** [I;T] to come together (with), by chance or arrangement: *Let's meet for dinner.* | *You'll never guess who I met today — my old teacher!* *We haven't met for 20 years.* **2** [I;T] to get to know or be introduced (to) for the first time: *Come to the party and meet some interesting people.* | *We met at Ann's party, didn't we, but I don't remember your name.* **3** [I] to gather together: *The whole school met to hear the speech.* **4** [T] to be there at the arrival of: *I'll meet you off the train.* | *The taxi will meet the train.* **5** [I] to join: *My skirt won't meet round my waist.* | *The two roads meet just north of Birmingham.* **6** [I;T] to play against (an opponent in sport): *Germany and Spain will meet* (=play against each other) *in the soccer cup final.* **7** [I] to touch: *Their lips met in a kiss.* | *The two cars met* (=crashed) *head-on.* **8** [T] to experience (something unpleasant) by chance: *She met her death* (=was killed) *in a plane crash.* **9** [T (with)] to answer, esp. in opposition: *His speech was met with cries of anger.* | (fig.) *I couldn't meet his eyes.* (=look back at him) **10** [T] to satisfy (a need, demand, etc.): *Does the hotel meet your expectations?* | *Their new model of car is so popular that they have had to open a new factory to meet the demand.* **11** [T] to pay: *Can you meet your debts?* **12** **meet someone halfway** to make an agreement which partly

satisfies the demands of both sides **13 more (in/to something) than meets the eye** hidden facts or reasons (in or for something): *The job seems easy, but there's more to it than meets the eye.* (=it is actually quite difficult) **14** **when shall we three meet again, in thunder, lightning or in rain?** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, said by the three WITCHES —see also MACBETH **15** **We can't go on meeting like this** *quote* a phrase originally used by unhappy lovers in a play, and now used humorously —see also **make ends meet** 5 (END¹)

meet up *phr v* [I (with)] *infml* to meet, esp. by informal arrangement: *Let's meet up after the play.*

meet with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to experience (esp. something unpleasant) by chance: *I met with some difficulties when I tried to enter the country.* | *They met with an accident on their way back.* **2** to have a meeting with: *Our representatives met with several heads of state to discuss the price of oil.*

meet² *n* **1** (in Britain) a gathering of people, esp. on horses with HOUNDS (=hunting dogs) to hunt foxes **2** *esp. AmE* a meeting of people, esp. for sports events: *a track meet*

meet³ *adj* [(for)] *old use or bibl* suitable; right

meeting /'miːtɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] a gathering of people for a purpose: *I was unable to attend the union meeting.* | *The chairman declared the meeting open.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** When someone telephones a business person, they may be told that they cannot speak to them because they are "in a meeting". This is also a well-known excuse used by people who do not wish to talk to the person asking for them. ◀

2 [*the+sing./pl. v*] the people in such a gathering: *What has/have the meeting decided?* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] the coming together of two or more people, by chance or arrangement: *Our meeting in Tokyo was quite by chance.* **4** **meeting of minds** agreement: *Let's see if we can have a meeting of minds about the schedule for the rest of the month.*

meeting-house /'miːtɪŋhaʊs/ *n* -houses /,haʊzɪz/ a place for religious meetings, esp. of NONCONFORMISTS such as Quakers. There is no leader in a meeting house and each person can say prayers or talk about the Bible as they wish, or pray silently. —compare CHURCH

mega- see WORD FORMATION

meg-a-bucks /'megəbʌks/ *n* [P] *infml* a large amount of money: *The house has dry rot and needs a new roof — we're talking about megabucks.*

meg-a-death /'megədeθ/ *n* [U] one million deaths, used when talking about the possible effects of a NUCLEAR war

meg-a-hertz /'megəhɜːts/ -3ɪr- / *written abbrev. MHz* also **meg-a-cy-cle** /'megəsaɪkl/ - *n* -hertz a million HERTZ

meg-a-lith /'megəlɪθ/ *n* a large tall stone usu. standing in an open place which was put up before historical times, perhaps as a religious sign. There are many megaliths or groups of megaliths in Britain. The most famous are the stone circles at Stonehenge and Avebury.

meg-a-lith-ic /,megə'liθɪk/ *adj* **1** of megaliths: *a megalithic monument* **2** of the time when these stones were put up: *the megalithic age*

meg-a-lo-ma-ni-a /,megə'ləʊ'meɪniə/ *n* [U] the belief that one is more important, powerful, etc., than one really is —*ac* /nɪæk/ *adj, n*

meg-a-lop-o-lis /,megə'lɒpəlɪs/ -'lɑː- / *n* a very large URBAN (=city) area, esp. one that has come about by nearby cities growing and meeting one another

meg-a-phone /'megəfəʊn/ also **loudhailer** BrE || **bullhorn** AmE — *n* an instrument shaped like a widening tube, often containing an AMPLIFIER, which is held to the mouth when speaking to make the sound of the voice louder: *The police chief addressed the huge crowd through a megaphone.* —compare BULLHORN, MICROPHONE

meg-a-star /'megəstɑː/ *n* a very famous performer, esp. in films or television; a SUPERSTAR

meg-a-ton /'megətən/ *n* a measure of force of an explosion equal to that of a million TONS (about 1,016,000,000 kilograms) of TNT: *a five-megaton atomic bomb*

me gen-e-ra-tion /' / ... / *n* [*the+sing./pl. v*] (often *cap. M*) (esp. in the 1970s and 1980s) a group of young adults who are selfishly concerned only with their own affairs and interests, and pay no attention to the lives and problems of other people

Mein Kampf /ˌmaɪn ˈkæmpf/ a book written by Adolf Hitler while he was in prison in 1923, describing his political ideas and his plan for gaining power over the whole world

mei-o-sis /maɪˈəʊsɪs/ *n* [U] cell division in which the new cells produced each have half the characteristics of the two parent cells. Sex cells are produced this way, allowing children to be different from their parents and from each other —compare MITOSIS

Me-ir /meɪˈɪər/, **Gol-da** /ˈɡəʊldə/ (1898–1978) an Israeli politician and PRIME MINISTER (born in Russia). She resigned (RESIGN) after criticism that she had not prepared the country for the 1973 Arab–Israeli war.

Meis-sen /ˈmeɪsən/ also **Meissen ware** /ˈmɛɪsən/ *n* [C;U] a type of PORCELAIN developed in the town of Meissen, near Dresden, Germany in the 18th century. It is valuable and some people collect it.

Me-kong /ˌmiːˈkɒŋ/ || ˌmeɪˈkɒŋ/ *n* [the] a river in the SE of Asia, which flows from Tibet through Cambodia and Laos to Vietnam. The Mekong Delta is one of the most important areas in Asia for growing rice.

mel-a-mine /ˈmeləmiːn/ *n* [U] a RESIN or plastic used e.g. to make a hard, decorative surface for shelves etc.

mel-an-cho-li-a /ˌmelənˈkəʊliə/ *n* [U] *old-fash fml* a condition in which one feels sad, hopeless, and worthless; DEPRESSION

mel-an-chol-ic /ˌmelənˈkɒlɪk/ || ˈkɑː-/ *adj esp. fml or lit* of or suffering from melancholia or melancholy

mel-an-chol-y /ˈmelənkəli/ || ˈkɑːli/ *n* [U] *esp. fml or lit* sadness, esp. over a period of time and not for any particular reason

melancholy ² *adj esp. fml or lit* sad: *alone and feeling melancholy* | *melancholy news*

Mel-a-ne-si-a /ˌmeləˈniːziə/ || ˈniːʃə/ a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean NE of Australia, including Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Fiji

Mel-a-ne-si-an /ˌmeləˈniːziən/ || ˈniːʃən/ *n* **1** [C] a person of or from Melanesia **2** [U] the language of Melanesia —**Melanesian** *adj*

mé-lange /meɪˈlɑːnz/ *n* [(of) *usu. sing.*] a mixture

mel-a-nin /ˈmelənɪn/ *n* [U] a natural dark brown colouring found in human skin, hair, and eyes

Mel-ba sauce /ˌmelbə ˈsɔːs/ *n* [C;U] a thick sweet liquid made with raspberries (RASPBERRY) used on ice cream —compare PEACH MELBA

Melba toast /ˌmɛlbə ˈtɔːst/ *n* [U] a kind of thin easily broken TOAST. In the US it is often given to people who are ill because it is easy to DIGEST. It is also given to babies who are growing teeth.

Mel-bourne /ˈmelbən/ || ˈærn/ a city in the state of Victoria in SE Australia, known as a business and industrial centre and for its famous RACECOURSE

mel-ee /ˈmeɪli/ || ˈmeɪli/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a struggling or disorderly crowd

mel-li-flu-ous /mɛˈlɪfluəs/ *adj fml* (of words, music, or a voice) having a sweet smooth flowing sound

mel-low ¹ /ˈmeləʊ/ *adj* **1** (of fruit and wine) sweet and ripe or fully developed, esp. after being kept for a long time **2** (of a colour) soft and warm; not bright **3** (of people or behaviour) wise and gentle through age or experience: *She used to have a fierce temper, but she's got mellower as she's got older.* **4** *infml* (feeling) pleasantly calm and friendly, not nervous: *The more wine he drank, the mellower he became.* —~*ly* *adv* —~*ness* *n* [U]

mellow ² *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become mellow as time passes: *The colours mellowed as the sun went down.* | *The years have mellowed him.* | *She's mellowed over the years.*

mellow out *phr v* [I;T **mellow** sbdy ↔ **out**] *AmE infml* to (cause to) relax: *mellowing out in front of the fireplace* | *Would you give him something to mellow him out?* *He's getting on my nerves.*

me-lod-ic /mɛˈlɒdɪk/ || mɛˈlɑː-/ *adj* **1** of or having a melody **2** melodious

me-lo-di-ous /mɛˈləʊdiəs/ *adj* having a pleasant tune or sound; pleasing to listen to —~*ly* *adv* —~*ness* *n* [U]

mel-o-dra-ma /ˈmelədrəːmə/ || ˈdrɑːmə, ˈdræmə/ *n* [C;U] a (type of) exciting play, full of sudden events, very good or very wicked characters, and (too) strong and simple feelings: (fig.) *You've only cut your finger. Don't make such a melodrama out of it!*

mel-o-dra-mat-ic /ˌmelədrəˈmætɪk/ *adj* showing, or intended to produce, strong and excited feelings; (too) EMOTIONAL: *He says he's going to kill himself, but he's just being melodramatic.* —~*ally* /kli/ *adv*

mel-o-dy /ˈmelədi/ *n* **1** [C] a song or tune: *a haunting melody* **2** [C] the part which forms a clearly recognizable tune in a larger arrangement of notes: *The sopranos have the melody while the others sing the accompaniment.* **3** [U] the arrangement of music in a tuneful way; melodiousness

Melody Mak-er /ˈ... ˌ.../ a British weekly magazine about popular music for young people

mel-on /ˈmelən/ *n* [C;U] a large rounded fruit, with a firm skin and juicy flesh which can be eaten. It is often eaten as a first course, but can also be eaten as a DESSERT. —see also CANTALOUPE, HONEYDEW MELON, WATERMELON, and see picture at FRUIT

melt /melt/ *v* **1** [I;T] **a** to cause (a solid) to become liquid: *The sun melted the snow.* **b** (of a solid) to become liquid: *The ice is melting in the sun.* —compare FREEZE, THAW **2** [I;T] to (cause to) become gentle, sympathetic, etc.: *He shouted at the little girl, but his heart melted when he saw her crying.* **3** [I (AWAY)] to gradually disappear: *I don't know where my money goes — it just seems to melt (away).* | *The crowd of demonstrators melted away when the police arrived.* **4** [I (into)] (of a colour, sound, or sensation) to become lost in another by moving gently: *The trumpet call melts gradually into the orchestral background.* **5** **melt in the mouth** *apprec* (of solid food) to be easy and extremely pleasant to eat: *These chocolates really melt in your mouth.*

▷ USAGE The adjective **molten** means **melted**, but it is used only of things that melt at a very high temperature. Compare **molten rock/metal** and **melted chocolate/butter**.

melt sthg. **down** *phr v* [T] to make (a metal object) liquid by heating, esp. so as to use the metal again

melt-down /ˈmɛltdaʊn/ *n* [C;U] the melting of the material inside an atomic REACTOR, so that it burns through its container and allows dangerous RADIOACTIVITY to escape

melt-ing /ˈmɛltɪŋ/ *adj* (esp. of a voice) gentle, soft, and pleasant —~*ly* *adv*

melting point /ˈ... ˌ.../ *n* the temperature at which a particular solid melts

melting pot /ˈ... ˌ.../ *n* **1** a place where there is a mixing of people of different races and nations: *America has been a melting pot since its beginnings.* **2** **in the melting pot** not fixed; likely to be changed

Mel-ville /ˈmɛlvɪl/, **Her-man** /ˈhɜːmən/ || ˈhɜːr-/ (1819–91) an American writer who wrote about his experiences as a SEAMAN. His most famous books are *Moby Dick*, and *Billy Budd*. —see also MOBY DICK

mem-ber /ˈmembə/ *n* **1** [(of)] a person belonging to a club, group, etc.: *a member of the family* | *a member of a political party* | *She became a member of the committee.* | *The club bar is open to members only.* —see also PRIVATE MEMBER **2** *a fml* an organ or limb of the body **b** *lit euph* the male sexual organ

Member of Par-li-a-ment /ˌ... ˌ.../ *n* an MP

mem-ber-ship /ˈmembəʃɪp/ || ˈər-/ *n* **1** [U (of)] the state of being a member of a club, society, etc.: *I must renew my membership of the sailing club.* | *Have you applied for membership?* **2** [C+*sing./pl. v*] all the members of a club, society, etc.: *We're trying to increase our membership.* | *a small/large membership* | *The membership disagree/disagrees on the proposed change in the rules.*

mem-brane /ˈmembreɪn/ *n* [C;U] (a) very soft thin skin, esp. in the body, covering or connecting parts of a structure: *A vibrating membrane in the ear helps to convey sounds to the brain.* —**branous** /ˈmembərəns/ *adj*

me-men-to /mɛˈmentəʊ/ *n* -tos [(of)] a small object which reminds one of a holiday, a friend, etc.

mem-o /ˈmeməʊ/ *n* -os **1** also **memorandum** *fml*—a note from one person or office to another within the same firm or organization **2** a note of something to be remembered: *I made a memo on my memo pad to buy more coffee.*

mem-oir /ˈmemwɑːr/ *n* [(of)] *fml* a short piece of writing on a subject, esp. the story of someone else's life

mem-oirs /ˈmemwɑːz/ || ˈɑːrz/ *n* [P] a written account of one's

own life and experiences, esp. one written by a person who has been active in politics or war; AUTOBIOGRAPHY: *The old general has started to write his memoirs.* — compare REMINISCENCES

mem-o-ra-bil-i-a /ˌmémərəˈbɪliə/ *n* [P] things that are interesting in connection with a famous person or event: *a collection of Shelley memorabilia, including several letters and a piece of his hair*

mem-o-ra-ble /ˌmémərəbəl/ *adj* [(for)] worth remembering; special in some way: *The film was memorable for (=remembered because of) its fine acting.* | *a memorable trip abroad* — **bly** *adv*: *a memorably awful performance*

mem-o-ran-dum /ˌméməˈrændəm/ *n* -**da** /də/ or -**dums** 1 *fml* for MEMO (1) 2 *fml* or *law* a written agreement

Memorandum of As-so-ci-a-tion /ˌmémərəˈndəm ɒf əˈsɒʃiəˈteɪʃən/ *n* BrE a legal document which gives information about a new limited company, such as its title, address, business, capital, and shares

me-mo-ri-al /mɒˈmɔːriəl/ *n* [(to)] something, esp. a stone MONUMENT, in memory of a person, event, etc.: *a war memorial (=in memory of dead soldiers)* | *a memorial sculpture* | *The church service is a memorial to those killed in the war.*

Memorial Day /ˌméməriəl ˈdeɪ/ *a* US legal holiday, the last Monday in May, when people remember those killed in wars: *Memorial Day weekend*

mem-o-rize also -**ise** BrE /ˌméməraɪz/ *v* [T] to learn and remember (words, etc.) on purpose: *He memorized the list of dates.*

mem-o-ry /ˌméməri/ *n* 1 [S (for); U] (an) ability to remember events and experiences: *She's got a good/bad memory for faces.* | *He played the tune from memory.* (=without written music) | *I've got a memory like a sieve!* (=I often forget things) | *I was sure I'd put my glasses down on this table — my memory is playing tricks on me.* (=I am remembering things incorrectly) 2 [C (of)] an event or experience that one remembers from the past: *One of my earliest memories is of playing in the garden.* 3 [C] the part of a computer in which information (DATA) can be stored until it is wanted: *The computer has a 256K memory.* 4 *if my memory serves me (well/correctly)* (used for showing that one is almost sure that one has remembered something correctly): *We first met in Egypt, if my memory serves me.* 5 *in memory of* as a way of remembering or reminding others of: *She set up the charitable trust in memory of her father.* 6 *someone's memory*: a the time during which things happened which someone can remember: *There have been two wars within the memory of my grandfather/(with)in living memory.* (=which can be remembered by people now alive) b someone as thought of after their death: *Her memory has always been held in the highest regard.* 7 *down memory lane* into the past, esp. when it is enjoyable to remember: *We had a little trip down memory lane last night, looking at all the old photographs.*

Mem-ph-is /ˌmémfɪs/ the largest city in the state of Tennessee, US, on the Mississippi river. Many people connect Memphis with music, esp. that of Elvis Presley. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

mem-sahib /ˌmémˈsɑːb/ -ˌsɑːhɪb, -ˌsɑːb/ *n* IndE & PakE a European woman, or an Indian woman of high social class —compare SAHIB

men /men/ *n* [P] 1 *pl. of MAN* 2 *infml* separate the men from the boys to separate those who have more skill or determination from those who are less able: *The run over the mountains will soon separate the men from the boys.* 3 *men in white coats/jackets* *euph* humor employees from a PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL who are mentioned in jokes as coming to take mentally ill people away to hospital: *If he goes on like this for much longer we'll have to send for the men in white coats!*

men-ace 1 /ˌmenəs/ *n* 1 [C (to); U] a threat or danger: *He spoke with menace.* (=threateningly and frighteningly) | *The busy road is a menace to the children's safety.* 2 [C] *infml* an extremely troublesome person or thing: *The man's worse than irritating. He's a positive menace!* —see also DENNIS THE MENACE

menace 2 *v* [T] *fml* to threaten: *the pollution which is menacing our countryside* | *dark menacing clouds* (=threatening a storm) —**acingly** *adv*

mé-nage /ˌmeɪnɑːʒ||məˈnɑːʒ/ *n* [C+*sing./pl.* *v*] a house and the people who live in it; HOUSEHOLD

ménage à trois /ˌmeɪnɑːʒ ɑː ˈtrwɑː||məˈnɑːʒ/ *n* [S] Fr a relationship in which two people and a lover of one of the pair live together

me-na-ge-rie /mɒˈnædʒəri/ *n* a collection of wild animals kept privately or for the public to see; ZOO

Men-ai Straits /ˌmenəɪ ˈstreɪts/ *n* [the+P] a CHANNEL in the Irish Sea between Anglesey and the Welsh mainland

MENCAP /ˈmenkæp/ the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults; a British organization (CHARITY) which gives advice and practical help to people with learning difficulties and their families, and tries to get better conditions and services for them

mend 1 /mend/ *v* 1 [T] to repair (a break, fault, etc.) in (something): *to mend a hole in the pipe* | *to mend a shirt* 2 [I] *infml* a (of a part of the body) to become well or healthy again b (of a person) to regain one's health 3 **mend (one's) fences** to remove the bad effects of one's former actions, for example by becoming friendly with a person one has offended 4 **mend one's ways** to improve one's behaviour, work, etc. — **~er** *n*

mend 2 *n* 1 a repaired place: *These trousers have a mend (=a PATCH or DARN) on the knee.* 2 **on the mend** *infml* getting better after illness

men-da-cious /menˈdeɪʃəs/ *adj* *fml* (of a person or statement) not truthful; lying — **~ly** *adv*

men-da-ci-ty /menˈdæsɪti/ *n* [U] *fml* untruthfulness

Men-dels-son /ˈmendəlsən/, **Fe-li-x** /ˈfiːliks/ (1809–47) a German COMPOSER (writer of music), who wrote five symphonies (SYMPHONY) and the OVERTURE *Fingal's Cave*. The *Wedding March* from his *Incidental Music to a Midsummer Night's Dream* is usu. played at church weddings as the newly-married man and woman leave the church.

men-di-cant /ˈmendɪkənt/ *adj*, *n* (a person) living as a beggar

mend-ing /ˈmendɪŋ/ *n* [U] clothes to be mended: *a basket of mending*

Men-dip Hills /ˌmendɪp ˈhɪlz/ also **Mendips**— [the + P] a range of hills in SW England, between the counties (COUNTY¹) of Avon and Somerset

Men-e-la-us /ˌmenɪˈleɪəs/ (in GREEK MYTHOLOGY) the king of Sparta, brother of Agamemnon and husband of Helen of Troy —see also HELEN OF TROY

men-folk /ˈmenfəʊk/ *n* [P] *infml* men, esp. one's male relatives

M Eng /ˌem ˈeɪ/ *n* Master of Engineering; (a title for someone who has) a higher university degree in ENGINEERING in the US

Men-em /ˈmenem/, **Car-los** /ˈkɑːləs||ˈkɑːrləʊs/ (1930–) the president of Argentina since 1989, representing the Peronist party

Men-gis-tu /menˈɡɪstʊ/, **Hai-le Ma-ri-am** /ˈhaɪli ˈmɑːriəm/ (1937–) an Ethiopian leader who established a Marxist government in 1977. He was driven out of power in 1991 by opposing forces after years of civil war and extreme lack of food in the country.

me-ni-al 1 /ˈmiːniəl/ *adj* (of work) not interesting or skilled, and done by unimportant people: *menial jobs like washing the floor* — **~ly** *adv*

menial 2 *n* *derog* someone who does menial work, esp. a servant in a house

men-in-gi-tis /ˌmenɪnˈdʒaɪtɪs/ *n* [U] a serious illness in which the outer part of the brain is swollen

Men-no-nite /ˈmenənait/ *n* a member of various Protestant groups, mainly in the US, who refuse to join the ARMED FORCES, do not BAPTIZE their children, and have no formal church organization

Men of Har-lech /ˌmen əv ˈhɑːlək, -ɪx || -ˈhɑːr-/ the English title of an old Welsh song, originally sung by soldiers marching into battle, now often by groups protesting against unemployment in Wales

Men On-ly /ˌˈmɛn ˈɒnli/ a British magazine for men which contains articles on cars, men's fashions, and sex, and photographs of women with very few clothes on

men-o-pause /ˌmenəˈpɔːz/ also **change of life**, **change** *euph*— *n* the time when a woman's PERIODS stop, usu. between the ages of 45 and 50. Women are thought to behave strangely during the menopause, e.g. by having moods which often change. They may also suffer from physical problems, esp. HOT FLUSHES. —compare MALE MENOPAUSE —**pausal** /menəˈpɔːzəl/ *adj*

me-no-rah /mə'nɔːrə/ *n* a CANDLESTICK with space for usu. seven CANDLES, used in Chanukah celebrations in the Jewish religious year

Me-nor-ca /me'nɔːkə/ -ɔːr- see MINORCA

MENSA /'mensə/ an international organization for people who are very clever. People take a test and are accepted into the organization if they are among the top 2 per cent in their country.

men's move-ment /'..- / [the] a movement thought to have begun in the late 1970s in which men, partly in reaction to FEMINISM, began to examine their emotions and behaviour in different ways. It is not regarded very seriously by many people. —see also NEW MAN

men's room /'..- / *n* AmE for GENTS

mens sa-na in cor-po-re san-o /,menz ,sɑːnə in ,kɔːpəri 'sɑːnəʊ/ - ,kɔːr- / *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning "a sound mind in a sound body", often used when encouraging people to take exercise to keep their bodies healthy

men-stru-al /'menstruəl/ *adj* concerning a woman's PERIOD (4)

menstrual pe-ri-od /,... '.../ *n* fml for PERIOD (4)

men-stru-ate /'menstrueɪ/ *v* [I] *tech* to have a PERIOD (4)
—**ation** /,menstru'eɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

men-su-ra-ble /'menʃərəbəl/ -sərə- / *adj* fml or *tech* for MEASURABLE

men-su-ra-tion /,menʃə'reɪʃən/ -sə'reɪ- / *n* [U] fml or *tech* the measuring of length, area, and VOLUME (2)

mens-wear /'menzweə/ *n* clothing for men: a menswear shop | the menswear department

men-tal /'mentl/ *adj* **1** of the mind: a child's mental development | His problem is mental, not physical. | mental health **2** [A] done or made only in the mind: mental arithmetic | a mental picture | It's no use trying to explain your computer to me — I've got a mental block about them. **3** [A] concerning illness of the mind: a mental hospital | mental treatment | mental patients **4** [F] sl, offensive mad or stupid: Don't listen to him. He's mental! — ~ly *adv*: mentally ill

mental age /,.. '.. / *n* a measure of someone's ability to use their mind, according to the usual age at which such ability would be found: The children in the special hospital are aged from seven to thirteen, but they all have a mental age of less than five.

mental de-fec-tive /,.. '... / *n* derog a person who cannot learn or be independent because of mental deficiency (=weakness of the mind)

mental hand-i-cap /,.. '... / *n* a state of low mental development, usu. from birth, caused by a variety of conditions —**mentally handicapped** *adj*, *n* (the+P): a special school for the mentally handicapped | My son is mentally handicapped.

mental hos-pi-tal /'... ,... / old-fash, considered offensive by some people *n* a PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

men-tal-i-ty /men'tæljəti/ *n* **1** [U] the abilities and powers of the mind: a person of weak mentality **2** [C] a person's habitual way of thinking; character: I can't understand the mentality of anyone who says such callous things. | a get-rich-quick mentality

mental note /,.. '.. / *n* something fixed in the mind to be remembered: I must make a mental note to buy coffee/that we need more coffee. | When she mentioned her birthday casually he made a mental note of it.

men-thol /'menθɒl/ -θɔːl, -θɑːl/ *n* [U] a white substance which smells and tastes of MINT³. It is used in some BRANDS of cigarettes to give them a special taste — ~ated /-θəleɪtɪd/ *adj*

men-tion /'menʃən/ *v* [T] **1** to tell about (something) in a few words, without giving details: We'd expected him to discuss the new scheme in his speech, but he hardly even mentioned it. [+ (that)] She mentioned that she'd seen the film, but she didn't tell us anything about it. **2** to say the name of: He mentioned a useful book. | the above-mentioned person (=the one mentioned earlier) **3** Don't mention it polite There is no need for thanks. I am glad to help: "Thank you very much." "Don't mention it." **4** not to mention and in addition there is ...: They have three dogs to look after, not to mention the cat and the bird. —see also UNMENTIONABLE

mention² *n* [usu. sing.] a short remark about something

or naming of someone: The actor's wedding got a mention on television. | He was given a mention in the list of helpers. | (fml) He made no mention of having seen her. —see also HONOURABLE MENTION

men-tor /'mentɔː/ *n* a person who gives advice to another over a period of time, esp. to help them in their working life

men-u /'menjuː/ *n* **1** a list of dishes in a meal or to be ordered as separate meals, esp. in a restaurant: Is fish on the menu today? **2** a list of different choices shown on the SCREEN¹ (5) of a COMPUTER during a PROGRAM, from which the user must choose: a menu-driven program (=operated by using a menu)

Men-uh-in /'menjuːn/, **Sir Ye-hu-di** /jɪ'huːdi/ (1916–) an American VIOLIN player, known for his music FESTIVAL in Gstaad in Switzerland and his school for children with special abilities in England

Men-zies /'menziz/, **Sir Rob-ert Gor-don** /'rɒbət 'gɔːdn/ 'rɔːbət 'gɔːr- / (1894–1978) an Australian politician and PRIME MINISTER who established the Liberal Party in Australia

me-ow /mi'au/ *n*, *v* MIAOW

MEP /,em iː 'piː/ *abbrev. for*: Member of the European Parliament

Meph-i-stoph-e-les /,mefɪ'stɒfɪlɪz/ -'stɑː- / the Devil in the story of Faust, to whom Faust sold his soul —**lean** /,mefɪstə'fɪliən- / *adj*

Merc /mɜːk/ mɜːrk/ *infml abbrev for*: **1** MERCEDES **2** MERCURY⁴

mer-can-tile /'mɜːkəntaɪl/ mɜːrkəntɪl, -taɪl/ *adj* [A] fml of trade and business; COMMERCIAL: mercantile law

mercantile ma-rine /,... '... / *n* see MERCHANT NAVY

Mer-ca-tor pro-jec-tion /mə'keɪtə prə'dʒekʃən/ mə'keɪtər- / also Mercator's projection— *n* [U] a way of drawing a map of the world so that it can be divided into regular squares, instead of getting thinner at the northern and southern edges

Mer-ce-des /mɜː'seɪdɪz/ mə' - / *tdmk* also Mercedes Benz /mɜː'seɪdɪz 'benz/ mə' - /, **Merc** *infml* a type of large, fast, comfortable car made by the German Mercedes-Benz company. It is regarded as a LUXURY car bought by very rich people.

mer-ce-na-ry¹ /'mɜːsənəri/ mɜːrsənəri/ *adj* derog influenced by the wish for money

mercenary² *n* a soldier who fights for any country or group that pays him, not for his own country

mer-chan-dise¹ /'mɜːtʃəndaɪz, -daɪz/ mɜːr- / *n* [U] **1** things for sale; goods **2** goods such as records, BADGES, T-SHIRTS, etc., connected with a popular performer or show, and sold at a performance: We make more from the merchandise than we do from ticket sales.

merchandise² *v* [T] to try to sell (goods or services): If this product is properly merchandised, it should sell very well.

mer-chant /'mɜːtʃənt/ mɜːr- / *n* a person who buys and sells goods, esp. of a particular sort, in large amounts: a timber/tea/coal merchant

merchant bank /,.. '.. / *n* a bank that provides banking services for businesses rather than for ordinary people. Merchant banks lend money, provide VENTURE CAPITAL, manage SHARES¹ (2), and give advice to companies. Merchant banks are not found in the US, where the same banks deal with business and ordinary customers through different departments.

mer-chant-man /'mɜːtʃəntmən/ mɜːr- / also merchant ship /'.. - / *n* -men /mən/ a ship carrying goods for trade

merchant na-vy /,.. '... / also mercantile marine *esp. BrE* || merchant marine /,.. '... / *esp. AmE*— *n* **1** all of a nation's ships which are used in trade, not war **2** [+sing./pl. v] the people who work on these ships

Merchant of Ven-ice /,.. '... /, **The** a play by Shakespeare, which includes the characters Shylock and Portia, and the argument over "a pound of flesh" —see also SHYLOCK

mer-ci-ful /'mɜːsɪfəl/ mɜːr- / *adj* **1** showing MERCY; forgiving or being kind rather than punishing or being cruel: The merciful king saved him from death. **2** happening by good luck and changing a bad situation: a merciful death (=it was fortunate to die, rather than suffer) — ~ly *adv*: Mercifully (=luckily), I remembered his name just in time. — ~ness *n* [U]

mer-ci-less /'mɜːsɪləs||'mɜːr-/ *adj* showing no MERCY; punishing rather than forgiving: *a merciless judge* | (fig.) *merciless criticism* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

mer-cu-ri-al /mɜː'kjʊəriəl||mɜːr-/ *adj esp. lit* quick, active, and often changing: *a mercurial temper* | *her mercurial mind* — *~ly adv*

mer-cu-ry /'mɜːkjʊəri||'mɜːr-/ *n* [U] a heavy silver-white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), is liquid at ordinary temperatures, and is used in THERMOMETERS, BAROMETERS, etc.

Mercury¹ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the Roman messenger of the gods (Greek name Hermes). He is usu. shown with wings on his shoes and HELMET.

Mercury² the PLANET nearest to the sun — see picture at SOLAR SYSTEM

Mercury³ an independent company which runs a TELECOMMUNICATIONS system in Britain, which the public can use in special blue telephone boxes. The system is also widely used by businesses.

Mercury⁴ also **Merc** *infml* — an American car made by Ford

Mercury⁵, **Fred-die** /'fredi/ (1946–91) a British popular music singer with the group **Queen**, known for his strange clothes and exciting performances on stage. He died of AIDS.

Mercury pro-gram /'... ,.../ [*the*] an American space programme of the early 1960s to put a man in ORBIT (=travelling in a large circle) around the earth

mer-cy /'mɜːsi||'mɜːr-/ *n* **1** [U] willingness to forgive, not to punish; kindness and pity: *The general showed no mercy, and killed all his prisoners.* **2** [S] *infml* a fortunate event: *It's a mercy the accident happened so close to the hospital.* **3** *at the mercy of* powerless against: *They were lost at sea, at the mercy of wind and weather.* **4** *leave to someone's (tender) mercies* humor to give to the cruel control of: *I'll teach him to ski myself, rather than leave him to the tender mercies of the skiing instructor.* **5** *be thankful for small mercies* be grateful for what you have

mercy kill-ing /'... ,.../ *n* [C;U] EUTHANASIA

mere¹ /mɪə/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] nothing more than (a); only (a): *She lost the election by a mere 20 votes.* | *a mere child* **2** *the merest* the smallest or most unimportant: *The merest little thing makes him nervous.*

mere² *n* **1** *lit.* a lake **2** (*in comb., as part of a name*): *Lake Windermere*

Mer-e-dith /'merɪdɪθ/, **George** (1828–1909) English writer and poet, whose works included the NOVEL *The Ordeal of Richard Feverel* and *Poems and Lyrics*

mere-ly /'mɪəli||'mɪər-/ *adv* only; simply: *I merely suggested you should do it again; there's no need to get annoyed.* | *She's merely a child.*

mer-e-tri-cious /,merɪ'trɪʃəs-/ *adj fml* attractive on the surface, but false or of no real value: *a meretricious argument* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

merge /mɜːdʒ||mɜːrdʒ/ *v* [I;T (*into, with*)] to combine or cause (two or more things) to combine, esp. gradually, so as to become a single thing: *One colour merged into the other.* | *The two roads merge a mile ahead.* | *to merge two companies* — see MIX (USAGE)

merg-er /'mɜːdʒə/||'mɜːr-/ *n* a joining together of two or more companies or firms

me-rid-i-an /mə'rɪdiən/ *n* **1** [C] an imaginary line drawn from the top point of the Earth (NORTH POLE) to the bottom (SOUTH POLE) over the surface of the Earth, one of several used on maps to show position **2** [(*the*) S] *fml* or *pomp* the highest point of success

me-ringue /mə'ræŋ/ *n* [C;U] (a light round cake made of) a baked mixture of sugar and the white part of eggs

mer-it¹ /'merɪt/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of deserving praise, reward, etc.; personal worth: *There's little merit in passing the test if you cheated.* | *They recognized her merit and promoted her.* **2** [C] a good quality: *One of her many merits is absolute reliability.* | *We must judge each plan on its (own) merits.* (=by its own qualities, not by our opinions) | *The committee are looking at the merits and demerits of the proposal.* — compare DEMERIT

merit² *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] *fml* to deserve; have a right to: *Your suggestion merits serious consideration.*

mer-i-toc-ra-cy /,merɪ'tɒkrəsi||-'tɑː-/ *n* **1** [C] a social system which gives the highest positions to those with the most ability **2** [*the+S+sing./pl. v*] the people who rule in this kind of system

mer-i-to-ri-ous /,merɪ'tɔːriəs-/ *adj fml* deserving reward or praise — *~ly adv*

Mer-lin /'mɜːlɪn||'mɜːr-/ (in the ARTHURIAN LEGEND) a MAGICIAN, adviser to King Arthur. He was imprisoned for all time by a woman to whom he told the secrets of his magic.

mer-maid /'mɜːmeɪd||'mɜːr-/ **mer-man** /-mæn/masc. — *n* (in stories) a creature with a woman's body from the head to the waist and a fish's tail instead of legs — see also LITTLE MERMAID

Mermaid Thea-tre /,... '.../ [*the*]

a theatre in London beside the river Thames

Mer-man /'mɜːmæn||'mɜːr-/ **Eth-el** /'eθəl/ (1909–84) an American singer and actress, most remembered for her loud and easily recognizable voice. People often copy the way she sang *There's No Business Like Show Business*.

mer-ri-ment /'merɪmənt/ *n* [U] laughter and (sounds of) fun and enjoyment: *His strange new hairstyle was the cause of much merriment.* (=made people laugh)

mer-ry /'meri/ *adj* **1** cheerful; full of lively happiness, fun, etc.: *a merry fellow* | *a merry smile* **2** causing laughter and fun: *a merry prank* **3** [F] *BrE infml euph* rather drunk: *We got a bit merry at the party.* **4** *make merry infml lit* to have fun, esp. eating and drinking for enjoyment **5** **Merry Christmas!** Have a happy time at Christmas! **6** *the more the merrier* a phrase used when saying that the more people join in an activity, the more enjoyable it will be — see also **eat, drink and be merry** (EAT) — *~rily adv* — *~riness n* [U]

Merry En-gland, **Mer-rie England** /,meri 'ɪŋɡlənd/ *n* [U] an image of England in Elizabethan times when life was supposedly pleasant and joyful, with lots of singing and dancing

merry-go-round /'... ,.../ also **roundabout** *BrE* || **carousel** *AmE* — *n* a machine in an amusement park on which esp. children can ride round and round sitting on model animals

mer-ry-mak-ing /'meri,meɪkɪŋ/ *n* [U] *lit* fun and enjoyment, esp. eating, drinking, dancing, and games: *There was joy and merrymaking in the whole country when the king's son was born.* — *~er n*

Merry Men /,... '.../ *n* [P] (in the stories of Robin Hood) the companions of Robin Hood: *Robin Hood and his Merry Men* — see ROBIN HOOD and see colour picture on page 620

Merry Mon-arch /,... '.../ [*the*] a NICKNAME for King Charles II of England, who was noted for his pleasure-loving way of life

Merry Wives of Wind-sor /,... ,... '.../, **The** a play (COMEDY) by William Shakespeare (1600), famous for the character of Sir John Falstaff — see also FALSTAFF

Mer-sey /'mɜːzi||'mɜːr-/ [*the*] a river in the NW of England, which flows through Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside into the Irish Sea. The Mersey is often connected with Liverpool and the **Mersey sound** was the music of the Beatles in the 1960s. — see colour map on page 818

Mer-sey-side /'mɜːzisaɪd||'mɜːr-/ a METROPOLITAN COUNTY in the NW of England, including Liverpool. It used to be an industrial area, with many DOCKS, but these have nearly all closed now. Its administrative centre is Liverpool.

Mer-thi-o-late /'mɜːθiəleɪt||'mɜːr-/ *AmE tdmk* a bright red liquid medicine formerly used on small cuts in the skin to prevent infection

mes-ca-lin, **-line** /'meskəlɪn, -lɪn/ *n* [U] a drug which is obtained from a type of CACTUS plant and causes HALLUCINATIONS (=imaginary things seen that seem real)

Mes-dames /'meɪdæm||meɪ'dɑːm/ *pl. of* MADAM, MADAME

Mes-de-moi-selles /,meɪdəmwa'zel/ *pl. of* MADEMOISELLE

mesh¹ /meʃ/ *n* [C;U] **1** (a piece of) material woven in a network with small holes between the threads: *We put some*



wire mesh | a fine wire mesh over the chimney so that the birds wouldn't fall in. | The fish were caught in the meshes of the net. | (fig.) caught in a mesh of lies **2** the spaces of a certain size in a network: a net of fine (=small) mesh —see also MICROMESH **3 in mesh** (of the teeth of GEARS) held together

mesh² *v* [I (with)] **1** (of the teeth of GEARS) to connect; be held together: The teeth on these two wheels mesh as the wheels revolve. **2** (of qualities, ideas, etc.) to fit together suitably: Their characters just don't mesh. | fast-food restaurants that don't really mesh with the atmosphere of old country towns

mes-mer-is-m /'mezmə'rizəm/ *n* [U] old use for HYPNOTISM (from Franz Mesmer, an Austrian PHYSICIAN who developed the use of HYPNOTISM) —**ist** *n*

mes-mer-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'mezmə'raɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to hold the complete attention of, esp. so as to make speechless and unable to move; FASCINATE: We stood by the lake, mesmerized by the flashing colours of the fish. **2** old use for HYPNOTIZE: a snake mesmerizing a rabbit —**ic** /mez'merɪk/ *adj*

me-son /'mɪzɒn||-zɑ:n/ *n* any of the ELEMENTARY PARTICLES in the centre of an atom that carry the STRONG FORCE

Mes-o-po-ta-mi-a /,mesəpə'teɪmiə/ *n* an area in W Asia around the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in modern Iraq, which was a centre of civilization in the ancient world

mess¹ /mes/ *n* **1** [S;U] (a state of) untidiness or dirt; dirty material: This room's in a mess. | There's a lot of mess to clear up. | What an awful mess! **2** [S] *infml* a situation full of difficulty and disorder; trouble: The company's affairs are in a terrible mess. **3** [C *usu. sing.*] *infml* someone or something untidy, disordered, etc.: You look a mess — you can't go to the office like that. | That report you did's a real mess — do it again! **4** [C] a room in which members of the armed forces eat together: the officers' mess **5** [C;U] *euph* a quantity of animal FAECES (=solid waste material): The dog made a mess on the carpet. **6** here's another fine mess you've gotten us in to quote a phrase often used by the COMEDIANS Laurel and Hardy **7** make a mess of *infml* to spoil, ruin, etc.: This illness makes a mess of my holiday plans.

mess² *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to have meals in a MESS¹ (4) **2** [I (with)] *AmE* to argue with someone or annoy them by treating them badly: Don't mess with me boy, or you'll be sorry!

mess about *esp. BrE* || **mess around** *esp. AmE phr v* **1** [I] *infml* to spend time lazily, doing things slowly with no plan: He spent all day just messing about. **2** [I] to act or speak stupidly: Stop messing about and tell me clearly what happened! **3** [I (with)] to work without speed or plan, but according to one's feelings at the time: He's always enjoyed messing around with boats. **4** [T] (mess sbdy. about) *infml* to treat badly or carelessly: Don't mess me about; I want the money you promised me.

mess around *phr v* [I (with)] *AmE euph* to make sexual advances, esp. when unwelcomed or forbidden: arrested for messing around with young boys

mess sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to disorder, spoil, etc.: Her late arrival messed up our plans. —**mess-up** /'·-·/ *n* **mess with** sthg. *phr v* [T] to get involved with: It's not a good idea to mess with stolen goods.

mes-sage /'mesɪdʒ/ *n* **1** a spoken or written piece of information passed from one person to another: There's an important message for you from your brother. [+to-v] Let's leave her a message to meet us at the station. [+that] Did you get the message that your boss has cancelled the meeting? **2** an important or main idea: It's not just mindless entertainment — it's a film with a message. [+that] Christ's message was that God loved the world. **3** get the message *infml* to understand what is wanted or meant

mes-sen-ger /'mesɪndʒə, -sɪn-/ *n* **1** a person who brings a message **2** blame/shoot the messenger to be angry with someone who tells you that something is wrong, although it is not their fault

Mes-ser-schmitt /'mesəʃmɪt||-sər-/ *n* a German plane used in the Second World War

mes-si-ah /mɪ'saɪə/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] (often *cap.*) a great religious leader arriving suddenly to save the world, esp. (*cap.*) Christ in the Christian religion or the man still expected by the Jews —**anic** /,mesi'ænik/ *adj*

Mes-sieurs /meɪ'sjɜ:z||-ʒɪr/ *pl.* of MONSIEUR

mess kit /'·-·/ *n* a small box containing food and tools (UTENSILS) to eat it with, supplied to soldiers —see also MRE

Mes-srs /'mesəz||-ərz/ (used chiefly in writing as the *pl.* of MR, esp. in the names of firms): Messrs Ford and Dobson, piano repairers

mess-y /'mesi/ *adj* **1** untidy: a messy room **2** needing a lot of cleaning up afterwards: A kid's party is a messy business. | (fig.) a messy divorce —**ily** *adv* —**iness** *n* [U]

mes-ti-zo /me'stɪzəʊ/ *n* -**zos** a person with one Spanish parent and one Native American parent

met /met/ *past tense and participle* of MEET

Met [the] *infml short for:* **1** the METROPOLITAN OPERA COMPANY **2** the METROPOLITAN POLICE

me-tab-o-lis-m /mɪ'tæbəlaɪzəm/ *n* the system of chemical activities by which a living thing gains power (ENERGY), esp. from food: The metabolism is slowed down by extreme cold. —**lic** /,metə'bɒlɪk/||-'bɑ:z/ *adj*

me-ta-bol-ize also **-ise** *BrE* — /mɪ'tæbəlaɪz/ *v* [T] to break down (food) in the body by chemical activity

met-al¹ /'metl/ *n* **1** [C;U] any usu. solid shiny mineral substance which can be shaped by pressure and used for passing an electric current: Copper and silver are both metals. | They poured the molten metal into moulds. | a metal box | metal fatigue —see also HEAVY METAL, METALLIC, WHITE METAL **2** [U] old-fash *BrE* small stones for making roads

metal² *v* -**ll** -*BrE* || -**l** -*AmE* [T] old-fash *BrE* to cover (a road) with small stones: a metalled road

met-a-lan-guage /'metə,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *n* [C;U] words used for talking about or describing language; the language of LINGUISTICS

metal de-tect-or /'·-·-·/ *n* a machine used to DETECT the presence of metal, usu. under the ground. Some people use metal detectors as a HOBBY, to try to find money, old coins, etc.

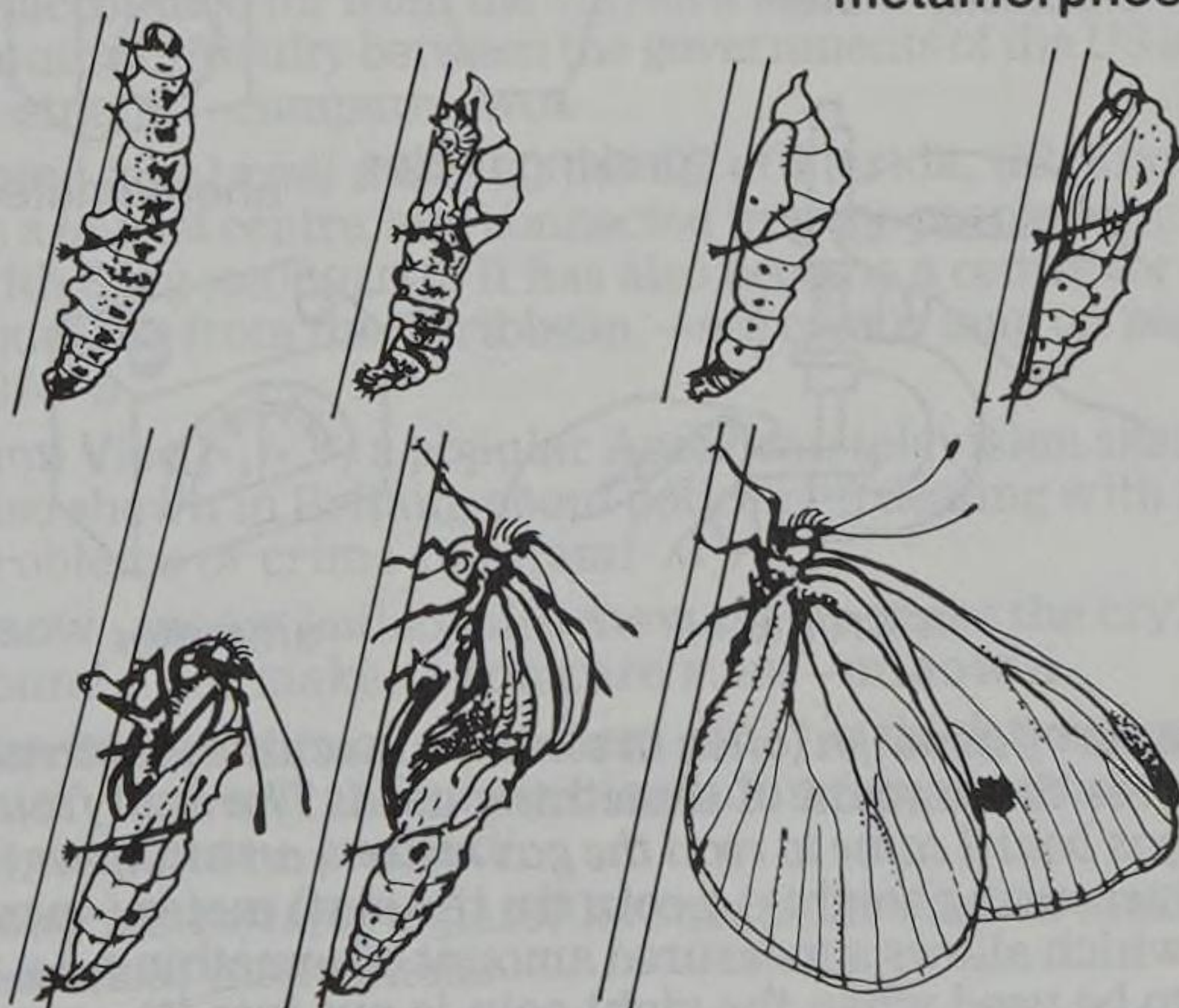
me-tal-lic /mɪ'tælɪk/ *adj* **1** of metal: metallic alloys **2** like a metal in appearance or sound: a sharp metallic clink | a bright metallic blue

met-al-lur-gy /mɪ'tælədʒi||'metəlɜ:rdʒi/ *n* [U] the scientific study of metals, their chemical structures, and the ways in which they behave and can be used —**gist** *n* —**gical** /,metə'lɜ:dʒɪkəl/||-'ʒɪr/ *adj*

met-al-work /'metlwɜ:k||-wɜ:rk/ *n* [U] **1** shaped metal objects **2** the making of metal objects —**er** *n*

met-a-mor-phose /,metə'mɔ:fəʊz||-ɔ:r-/ *v* [I;T (from, into)] *fml or tech* to (cause to) change into another form

metamorphosis



the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly

met-a-mor-pho-sis /,metə'mɔ:fəʊsɪs||-ɔ:r-/ *n* -**ses** /sɪz/ [C;U] (from, into) (a) complete change from one form to another: A butterfly is produced by metamorphosis from a caterpillar. | I think you'll be pleasantly surprised; she's undergone quite a metamorphosis since you last saw her.

met-a-phor /'metəfə, -fɔ:r||-fɔ:r/ *n* [C;U] (the use of) an expression which means or describes one thing or idea using words usually used of something else with very similar qualities (as in the sunshine of her smile or The rain came down in buckets.) without using the words as

or like —compare SIMILE; see also MIXED METAPHOR

met-a-phor-i-cal /,metə'fɔrɪkəl/ -'fɔ:-, -'fɑ:-/ *adj* using words to mean something different from their ordinary meaning: *It is a metaphorical phrase, Pierre; when I say he has green fingers, I mean he is good at gardening!* — ~ly /kli/ *adv*: *He's got a big head — metaphorically speaking, of course!*

met-a-phys-i-cal /,metə'fɪzɪkəl/ *adj* 1 [no comp.] of metaphysics 2 *fml* (of ideas or thinking) difficult to understand; ABSTRACT (2) 3 [no comp.] (of British poetry) in a 17th century style which combined strong feelings with clever arrangements of words and ideas. The best-known metaphysical poetry is that of John Donne, George Herbert, and Andrew Marvell. — ~ly /kli/ *adv*

met-a-phys-ics /,metə'fɪzɪks/ *n* [U] a branch of PHILOSOPHY (=the study of thought) concerned with trying to understand and describe the nature of reality

mete /mɪt/ *v*

mete sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (to)] *fml* or *lit* to cause someone to suffer (punishment, bad treatment, etc.); ADMINISTER: *to mete out punishment to the offenders*

me-tem-psy-cho-sis /mɛ'tɛmsaɪ'kəʊsɪs/ -sɪ'kəʊ-/ *n* [U] *tech* TRANSMIGRATION

me-te-or /'mɪxtɪə/ *n* a small piece of matter floating in space that starts to burn if it falls into the Earth's air (ATMOSPHERE), and can then be seen as a line of light

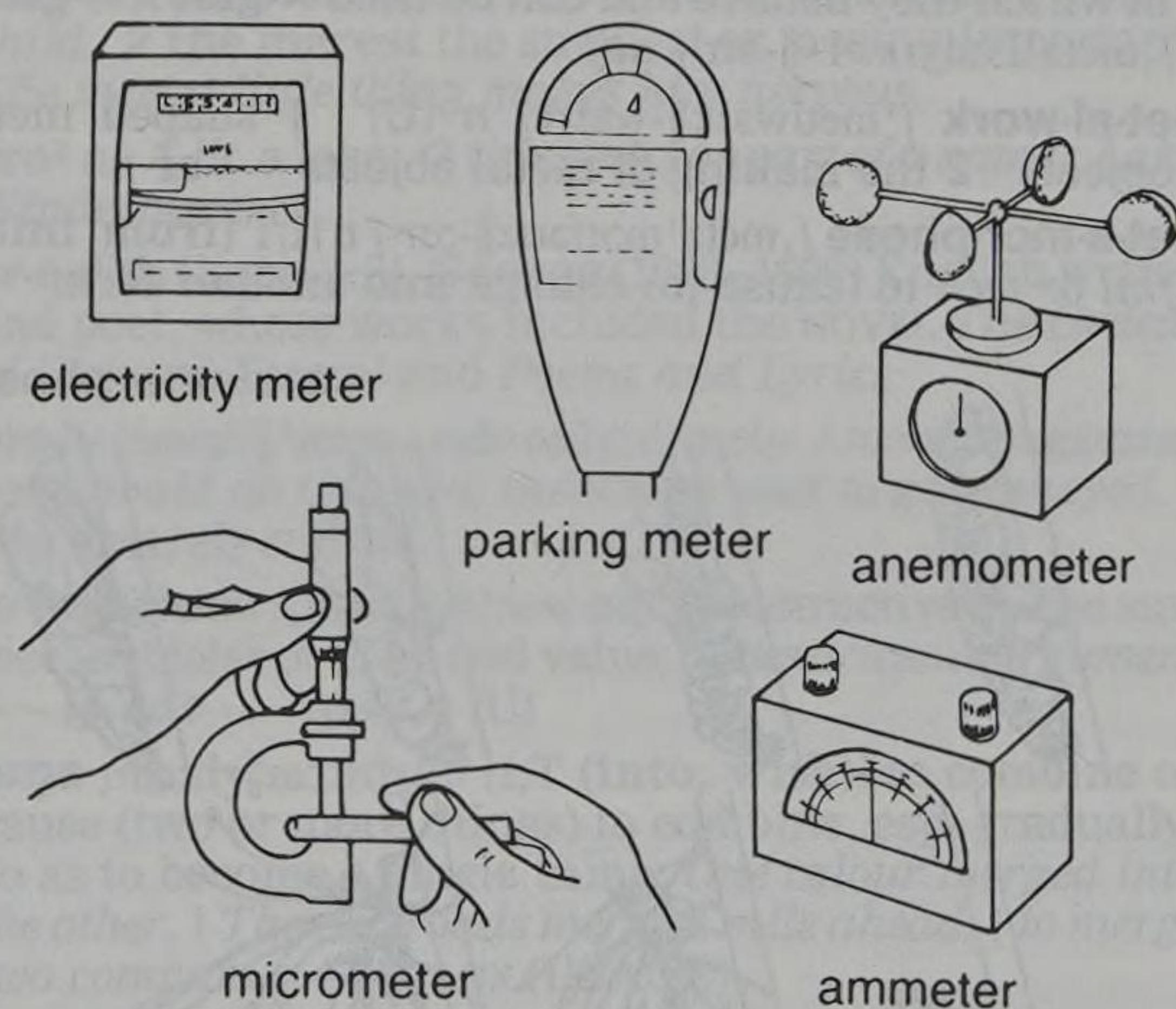
me-te-or-ic /,mɪxtɪ'ɒrɪkəl/ -'ɔ:rɪkəl, -'ɑ:rɪkəl/ *adj* of or like a meteor, esp. in being very fast or in being bright and lasting only a short time: *a meteoric rise to fame* — ~ally /kli/ *adv*

me-te-o-rite /'mɪxtɪərɪt/ *n* a meteor that has landed on the Earth, without being totally burnt up

Meteorological Of-fice /.../ also **Met Office**— [the] the office which collects information on the weather in Britain and gives weather FORECASTS to the public, based at Bracknell in S England —compare NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

me-te-o-rol-o-gy /,mɪxtɪə'rɒlədʒi/ -'rɑ:-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of weather conditions —**gist** *n* —**gical** /,mɪxtɪə'rɒlədʒɪkəl/ -'lɑ:-/ *adj*

meters



me-ter¹ /'mɪxtə/ *n* (often in comb.) a machine which measures the amount of something used: *The man from the gas board came to read the gas meter.* | an altimeter (=for measuring height) | a coin (in the slot) meter (=a meter which allows a measured amount of something, e.g. gas, to be used when the right coin is put into it) —see also PARKING METER

meter² *n* AmE for METRE

meter³ *v* [T] to measure or supply by means of a METER¹: *an instrument that meters rainfall* | *The water in our house is metered.*

-**meter** see WORD FORMATION

meter maid /'.../ *n* old fash a woman whose job is to write PARKING TICKETS and put them on cars

meth-a-done /'meθədʌn/ *n* a drug which is often supplied to people trying to break their ADDICTION to HEROIN, usu. at a methadone clinic

me-thane /'mɪ:θeɪn/ -'me-/ *n* [U] a gas which is formed from decaying matter, is often burned to give heat, and has recently come to public notice as a GREENHOUSE GAS

meth-a-nol /'meθənɒl/ -nɔ:l, -nɑ:l/ *n* [U] AmE METHYL ALCOHOL

me-thinks /mɪ'θɪŋks/ -**thought** /'θɔ:t/ *old use* I think

meth-od /'meθəd/ *n* 1 [C (of, for)] a planned way of doing something: *The bank has introduced a new method of calculating the interest on loans.* | *outdated training methods*

2 [U] proper planning and arrangement: *There's not much method in the way they do their accounts.* —see also METHODOLOGY, SCIENTIFIC METHOD 3 *cap* a TECHNIQUE used by actors when they try to become the character they are playing, first introduced by Constantin Stanislavsky 4 **There's 'method in someone's madness** *infml* Even though someone seems to be behaving strangely, there's a sensible reason for what they're doing

me-thod-i-cal /mɛ'thɒdɪkəl/ -'mɛ'thɑ:-/ *adj* doing things carefully, using an ordered system: *a methodical person* — ~ly /kli/ *adv*: *He went through the thousands of books methodically, one by one.*

Meth-od-is-m /'meθədɪzəm/ *n* [U] the beliefs of a Christian Protestant group which follows the teachings of John Wesley, who placed importance on personal and social MORALITY —**dist** *adj, n*

meth-o-dol-o-gy /,meθə'dɒlədʒi/ -'dɑ:-/ *n* [C;U] *tech* the set of methods used for study or action in a particular subject, as in science or education: *a new methodology of teaching/teaching methodology* —**gical** /,meθədə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ -'lɑ:-/ *adj* —**gically** /kli/ *adv*

meths /meθs/ *n* [U] BrE *infml* for METHYLATED SPIRITS

Me-thu-se-lah /mɛ'tʃu:zələ/ -'θu:-/ *as old as Methuselah* very old (from a man in the Bible who was said to have lived for 969 years)

meth-yl al-co-hol /,meθɪl 'ælkəhɒl, *tech* ,mɪ:θaɪl-||-hɔ:l/ also **wood alcohol, methanol**— *n* [U] poisonous alcohol found in some natural substances, such as wood —compare ETHYL ALCOHOL

meth-yl-at-ed spir-its /,meθɪleɪtɪd 'spɪrɪts/ also **meths** BrE *infml*— *n* [U] a kind of alcohol for burning in lamps, heaters, etc. It is sometimes drunk by ALCOHOLICS because it is cheap, but it is very harmful and dangerous.

me-tic-u-lous /mɛ'tɪkjʊləs/ *adj* extremely careful; with great attention to detail: *meticulous drawings* | *a meticulous worker* — ~ly *adv*: *meticulously tidy* — ~ness *n* [U]

mé-ti-er /'metɪər, 'meɪ-||me'tjeɪ, 'metjeɪ/ *n* *pomp* the trade, profession, or type of work which one does, or to which one is suited

Met Of-fice /'.../ [the] the METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

me-too /, '.../ *adj* [A] *derog* copying what others have done, without making an independent decision: *a car of me-too design, just like the ones other manufacturers have produced*

me-tre¹ BrE || **meter** AmE /'mɪxtə/ (written abbrev. **m**) *n* a unit for measuring length: *It's three metres long.* | *an area of six square metres* —see TABLE 2

metre² BrE || **meter** AmE *n* [C;U] (any type of) arrangement of words in poetry into strong and weak beats —compare RHYTHM

-**metre** see WORD FORMATION

met-ric /'metrɪk/ *adj* of the system of weights and measures (**metric system**) based on the metre and kilogram —compare AVOIRDUPOIS, IMPERIAL (2)

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Although Britain officially uses the metric system, and children are taught only metric units in school, the IMPERIAL system, based on the pound and the mile is still widely used. Food in tins or packets usu. has the weight shown in kilograms, but fresh food such as fruit, vegetables and meat is usu. sold by the pound. Milk is sold in PINTS or litres, and BEER is sold in pints. Distances on road signs are shown in miles. People give their own weight in STONES (a stone = 14 pounds) and pounds, and their height in feet and inches (INCH).

The imperial system is used in the US for all usual weights and measures and the metric system is used only in scientific contexts. Note however that there are differences between the British and American liquid measures of OUNCE, PINT, and GALLON, the British ones being

slightly larger. Americans use pounds rather than stone when talking about their own weight.

met-ri-cal /'metrɪkəl/ also **metric**— *adj tech* written in the form of poetry, with regular beats: *a metrical translation of Homer* — *~ly* /kli/ *adv*

met-ri-ca-tion /,metrɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [U] a change from standards of measurement used before (such as the foot and the pound) to metres, grams, etc.

met-ri-cize also **-cise** *BrE*— /'metrɪsaɪz/ *v* [I;T] to change to the metric system

metric ton /,· '· / *n* a measure of weight —see TABLE 2

met-ro /'metrəʊ/ *n* **-ros** [*usu. sing.*] (*often cap.*) an underground railway system in cities in France and various other countries: *the Leningrad/Washington Metro* | *Can you get there by metro?* —compare SUBWAY (2), UNDERGROUND³ (1)

Metro-Gold-wyn-May-er /,metrəʊ ˌgəʊldwɪn 'meɪər/ see MGM

met-ro-nome /'metrənəm/ *n* an instrument with an arm that moves from side to side to give the speed at which a piece of music should be played

me-trop-o-lis /mɒ'trɒpəlɪs||mɒ'trɑː-/ *n* **1** [(the) S] *fml* a chief city or the capital city of a country **2** [C] an important centre of a particular activity: *a business metropolis*

met-ro-pol-i-tan¹ /,metrə'pɒlɪtən·||-'paː-/ *adj* **1** of a metropolis: *London Transport serves the whole metropolitan area.* **2** [A] being the central country of a system: *Canadian French is different from the language of metropolitan France.*

metropolitan² also **metropolitan bish-op** /,· · · · · '· /— *n* (*often cap.*) the BISHOP (=chief priest of high rank) of an area, esp. in the Russian Orthodox Church

metropolitan county /· '· · · · /— one of the six local government areas created in 1972 by the **Local Government Act**, which have similar powers to counties (COUNTY)

Metropolitan Mu-se-um of Art /,· · · · · '· / [*the*] the most important art MUSEUM in the US, in New York City —see colour map on page 1376

Metropolitan Op-e-ra Com-pa-ny /,· · · · · '· / also **Met**— [*the*] an American OPERA company based at the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts in New York. Their performances are often broadcast on the radio.

Metropolitan Po-lice /,· · · · · '· / also **Met**— *n* [*the +sing./pl.v*] the police force which is responsible for London, except for the City (central London)

met-tle /'metl/ *n* [U] **1** the will to continue bravely in spite of difficulties: *The runner fell and twisted his ankle badly, but he showed his mettle by continuing in the race.* **2 be on one's mettle/put someone on their mettle rather old-fash** to have to make/force someone to make the best possible effort

met-tle-some /'metlsəm/ *adj lit, usu. apprec* (esp. of a horse) high-spirited and active

mew /mjuː/ *v* [I] to make the sound a cat makes; MIAOW — **mew** *n*

mews /mjuz/ *n* **mews** *BrE* a back street or yard in a city, where horses were once kept, now partly rebuilt so that people can live there, cars can be stored there etc. Mews houses are quite small but are considered desirable and can be expensive to buy: *They live at 6, Camden Mews.* | *a mews cottage*

Mex-i-can /'meksɪkən/ *n* a person who comes from or whose parents come from Mexico —**Mexican** *adj*

Mexican War /,· · · '· / [*the*] (1846–48) a war between the US and Mexico, which began when the US took over Texas, which had recently won its independence from Mexico. Mexico and the US disagreed over the Texas-Mexican border. The US also wanted to buy California and New Mexico, but Mexico did not want to sell. Led by General Zachary Taylor, the future president, the US won the war, and bought an extremely large area of land which included California, Nevada, and Utah, and parts of several other states. —see also ALAMO

Mexican wave /,· · · '· / *n* a wave-like movement made by a large number of seated people, e.g. in a sports STADIUM. They stand up and raise their arms, and then sit down, one after the other so that it looks like a continuous

movement (first seen at the football World Cup in Mexico City in 1986) —see colour picture on page 884

Mex-i-co /'meksɪkəʊ/ the Spanish-speaking, mostly CATHOLIC country immediately south of the US; capital Mexico City; population 84,275,000 (1989). Its people are descended from NATIVE AMERICANS and Spanish COLONISTS of the 16th and 17th centuries. It has had a strong influence on American CULTURE, esp. in food and language. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

mez-za-nine /'mezəniːn, 'metsə-||'mezə-/ *n* **1** a floor that comes between two other floors of a building, esp. between the bottom floor and the next floor up, and usu. does not stretch all the way from one wall to the other **2 AmE** (the first few rows of seats in) the lowest BALCONY in a theatre

mez-zo¹ /'metsəʊ/ *adv tech* (in music) not very; MODERATELY (esp. in the phrases **mezzo forte** and **mezzo piano**)

mezzo² also **mezzo-soprano** /,· · · '· /— *n* **mezzos, mezzo-sopranos** (a woman with) a voice that is not so high as a SOPRANO's nor so low as an ALTO's

mez-zo-tint /'metsəʊ,tɪnt, 'medzəʊ-/ *n* a printed picture from a metal plate that is polished in places to produce areas of light and shade

MFI /,em ef 'aɪ/ one of a group of British shops selling inexpensive furniture, usu. in the form of a kit (KIT¹ (3)) which the buyer puts together at home

mg *written abbrev. for:* MILLIGRAM

MG /,em 'dʒiː/ *n tdmk* a popular British sports car. People who own these cars are often very proud of them.

M Glam *written abbrev. for:* Mid Glamorgan

MGM /,em dʒiː 'em/ Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer; an American film company based in Hollywood which has made many famous films and CARTOONS

Mgr *written abbrev. for:* **1** manager (MANAGER (1)) **2** MONSIGNOR

MHz *written abbrev. for:* MEGAHERTZ

mi /miː/ *n* [S;U] the third note in the (SOL-FA) musical SCALE

MI *written abbrev. for:* MICHIGAN

MI5 /,em aɪ 'faɪv/ the British organization responsible for protecting military secrets and catching foreign spies (SPY) (from Military Intelligence Section 5)

MI6 /,em aɪ 'sɪks/ the British organization responsible for sending spies (SPY) into foreign countries (from Military Intelligence Section 6)

MIA /,em aɪ 'eɪ/ *n AmE* short for **missing in action**; a soldier who is missing but not known to be dead or a PRISONER OF WAR. There are many American MIAs still unaccounted for from the VIETNAM WAR, and this is a continuing difficulty between the governments of the US and Vietnam. —compare AWOL

Mi-am-i /maɪ 'æmi/ a city in the SE of Florida, US, known as a tourist centre, and connected in some people's minds with drug SMUGGLING. It has also become a centre for IMMIGRANTS from the Caribbean. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Miami Vice /,· · · '· / a popular American television SERIES, also shown in Britain, about policemen dealing with the problems of crime in Miami

mi-aow, **meow** /mi 'aʊ/ also **mew** *v* [I] to make the crying sound a cat makes —compare PURR —**miaow** *n*

mi-as-ma /mi 'æzmə, maɪ-/ *n esp. lit* **1** a thick poisonous mist **2** an evil and weakening influence: *the miasma of hopelessness* —**mal** *adj*

mi-ca /'maɪkə/ *n* [U] a glasslike substance used in making electrical instruments

Mi-caw-ber /mɪ 'kɔːbə/, **Wil-kins** /'wɪlkɪnz/ a character in the book *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens. Mr Micawber is put in prison because he owes money and cannot pay it, but he is always happy and spends any money he gets on himself, confident that “something will turn up” to get him out of trouble. He is also remembered for saying “Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds nineteen and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery.” (meaning that if you spend slightly less than you earn you will be happy, but if you spend slightly more than you earn you will be unhappy).

mice /maɪs/ 1 *pl. of* MOUSE (1,2) 2 **the best laid plans/schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley** a slightly changed phrase from a poem by Robert Burns, meaning that even very carefully made plans often go wrong

Mich-ael-mas /'mɪkəlməs/ *n* [C;U] 29th September, a Christian holy day in honour of Saint Michael. In some English universities, the TERM which starts just after Michaelmas is called the Michaelmas term.

Mi-chel-an-ge-lo /,maɪkəl-ændʒələʊ/ (1475–1564) an Italian SCULPTOR, painter, and ARCHITECT considered to be one of the greatest of all time, known esp. for his painting of the CEILING of the Sistine Chapel in Rome

Michelangelo's David



Mich-e-lin Guide /'mɪtʃəlɪn ɡaɪd, 'mɪʃ-/ *n* also **Michelin**—a guide book (GUIDE¹ (3)) produced by the French Michelin company. The **red guides** contain maps and information on hotels and restaurants in towns and cities in European countries. The hotels and restaurants are graded (GRADE) according to their quality: *This restaurant has three stars in the Michelin.* The **green guides** contain maps and notes on places of interest in Europe and the US.

Michelin man /'... ɪ/ *n* a drawing of a small, fat man who looks as if he is made of tyres, used in advertising by the French Michelin company

Mich-e-ner /'mɪtʃənər/, **James** (1907–) an American writer of stories whose many books, such as *Hawaii* and *Centennial*, look at the history of a place or people over a long period of time by following the events in one or more families for several GENERATIONS

Mich-i-gan /'mɪʃɪɡən/ (*written abbrev. MI*) 1 a state in the N of the US, an industrial area, known esp. for car manufacturing (MANUFACTURE) 2 a lake in N central US, one of the Great Lakes—see colour map on pages 1374–5

Mick /mɪk/ *n* *BrE infml*, often *derog* a name used for someone from Ireland (a short form of **Michael**, a common first name in Ireland)

mick-ey /'mɪki/ *n* 1 also **mickey finn** /,mɪki 'fɪn/—*sl* (*often cap.*) an alcoholic drink to which a drug has been added which will make the drinker unconscious 2 **take the mickey (out of someone)** *infml*, esp. *BrE* to make someone feel foolish by copying them or laughing at them

Mickey Mouse¹ /,ɪ.. 'ɪ/ a character, based on a mouse, in the early CARTOONS of Walt Disney. Mickey Mouse and his female partner **Minnie Mouse** are famous all over the world and are recognized as a SYMBOL of Disney.

Mickey Mouse² *adj* [A] *infml*, *usu. derog* (esp. of a business firm or similar organization) small and unimportant; not to be taken seriously: *He calls himself the managing director but his company is just a Mickey Mouse operation that he runs from his own home.*

Mickey Mouse Club /,ɪ.. 'ɪ/ [the] an American television programme for children during the 1950s. The show began with a group of children called **Mouseketeers** singing a song that spelled out the name of Mickey Mouse.

mi-cro /'maɪkrəʊ/ *n* -**cros** *infml* for MICROCOMPUTER

micro- see WORD FORMATION

mi-crobe /'maɪkrəʊb/ *n* *not tech* a living thing that is so small that it cannot be seen without a microscope, and that may cause disease; bacterium—compare VIRUS

mi-cro-bi-ol-o-gy /,maɪkrəʊbaɪ'ɒlədʒi/—'aɪl-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of very small living things, such as bacteria—**gist** *n*—**gical** /-baɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl/—'laɪ-/ *adj*

mi-cro-chip /'maɪkrəʊtʃɪp/ *n* a CHIP¹ (6)

mi-cro-com-put-er /,maɪkrəʊkəm'pjʊtər/ also **micro** *infml*—*n* the smallest type of computer, used esp. in the home, in schools, or by small businesses—compare MAINFRAME, MINICOMPUTER, PERSONAL COMPUTER

mi-cro-cos-m /'maɪkrəʊkɒzəm/—kaɪ-/ *n* [(of)] something

small and self-contained that represents all the qualities, activities, etc., of something larger: *In this fish tank is a microcosm of life on the sea bed; it shows the sea bed in microcosm.*—compare MACROCOSM—~**ic** /,maɪkrəʊ-'kɒzmɪk/—'kaɪz-/ *adj*

mi-cro-ec-o-nom-ics /,maɪkrəʊekə'nɒmɪks, -ɪkə/—'naɪ-/ *n* [S] study of the economics of a single industry, product, or other feature within a larger system—compare MACROECONOMICS—**microeconomic** *adj*

mi-cro-e-lec-tron-ics /,maɪkrəʊɪlek'trɒnɪks/—'traɪ-/ *n* [S] the branch of electronics which concerns the production of very small PRINTED CIRCUITS and COMPONENTS—**micro-electronic** *adj*

mi-cro-fiche /'maɪkrəʊfɪʃ/ *n* -**fiche** or -**fiches** [C;U] a sheet of film on which photographs of esp. printed pages can be stored in a very small size; the pages can be read by using a **microfiche reader**

mi-cro-film¹ /'maɪkrəʊfɪlm/ *n* [C;U] (a narrow length of) film for photographing a page, a letter, etc., in a very small size so that it can be easily stored

microfilm² *v* [T] to photograph (something) on microfilm

mi-cro-light /'maɪkrəʊlaɪt/ *n* [C] a very light and small aircraft *usu.* with a wing like a HANG GLIDER, for one or two people

mi-cro-mesh /'maɪkrəʊmeʃ/ *n* [U] *BrE* very fine net material used esp. for making women's tights

mi-crom-e-ter /maɪ'krɒmɪtər/—'kraɪ-/ *n* an instrument for measuring very small objects—see picture at METER

mi-cron /'maɪkrɒn/—kraɪn/ *n* one millionth of a metre

Mi-cro-ne-si-a /,maɪkrəʊ'nɪziə/—ʒə/ islands of the W Pacific Ocean, including the Caroline Islands and the Gilbert Islands—see map of the world

mi-cro-or-gan-is-m /,maɪkrəʊ'ɔːɡənɪzəm/—'ɔːr-/ *n* a bacterium; MICROBE

mi-cro-phone /'maɪkrəʊfəʊn/ also **mike** *infml*—*n* an instrument for receiving sound waves and changing them into electrical waves, used in broadcasting or recording sound (e.g. in radio, telephones, etc.) or for making sounds louder: *The singer used a microphone so that everyone in the hall could hear him.*—compare MEGAPHONE

mi-cro-pro-ces-sor /,maɪkrəʊ'prəʊsesər/ *n* the central CHIP¹ (6) in a small computer which controls most of its operations—see also CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT

mi-cro-scope /'maɪkrəʊskəʊp/ *n* a scientific instrument that makes extremely small things look larger, so that they can be seen properly and examined scientifically: *He stained some slides and looked at them under the microscope.*—compare TELESCOPE; see INSTRUMENT (USAGE), and see picture at LABORATORY

mi-cro-scop-ic /,maɪkrəʊ'skɒpɪk/—'skɑː-/ *adj* 1 [A] by means of a microscope: *The scientist made a microscopic examination of the dust from the prisoner's clothes.* 2 *infml* very small: *It's impossible to read his microscopic handwriting.*—~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

mi-cro-sec-ond /'maɪkrəʊ'sekənd/ *n* one millionth of a second

mi-cro-wave¹ /'maɪkrəʊweɪv/ *n* 1 a very short electric wave, used in sending messages by radio, in RADAR, and esp. in cooking food 2 also **microwave oven** a type of OVEN that uses microwaves to cook food. Microwave ovens are used in FAST FOOD restaurants as they cook food very quickly. They are also popular in the home for defrosting (DEFROST) and cooking food.—see picture at KITCHEN

microwave² *n* [T] to cook in a microwave OVEN

mi-cro-wave-a-ble, **microwavable** /'maɪkrəʊweɪvəbəl/ *adj* (specially prepared to be) suitable for cooking in a microwave OVEN

mid /mɪd/ *prep* *poet* among; in the middle of

mid- see WORD FORMATION

mid-air /,mɪd'eəɪ-/ *n* [U] a point up in the air or the sky, away from the ground: *The planes collided in midair.* | *a midair explosion caused by a terrorist bomb*

Mi-das /'maɪdəs/, **King** in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a king who was given the power to turn everything he touched to gold. He was allowed to give up this power when he found that even his food and drink turned to gold as soon as he touched them.

midas touch /'iː.ɪ/ *n* [the] (often *cap.*) the ability to make money out of any activity

Mid At-lan-tic /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *adj, n* a way of speaking halfway between American and British English: *He's got a Mid Atlantic accent.*

mid-day /,mɪdˈdeɪ/ || 'mɪd-deɪ/ *n* [U] the middle of the day; 12 o'clock NOON: *a meal at midday | a midday meal | the full heat of the midday sun* —compare MIDNIGHT

midday meal /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *n* a meal eaten in the middle of the day

mid-den /'mɪdn/ *n* *esp. dial or tech* a pile of waste matter, *esp. from animals*

mid-dle¹ /'mɪdl/ *adj* [A] in or nearly in the centre; at the same distance from two or more points, or from the beginning and end of something: *Ours is the middle house in that row of five. | a country of middle size | middle-ranking army officers*

middle² *n* [(the) S;U (of)] **1** the central part, point, or position: *Here's a photo of him with his brothers; he's the one in the middle. | a rosetree in the middle of the garden | This bill must be paid not later than the middle of the month.* **2** *infml* the waist or the part below the waist: *He's getting fatter round the middle.* **3** **in the middle of** busy with: *Can I call you back later — I'm in the middle of lunch.*

▷ USAGE Compare **centre** and **middle**. **Centre** is similar to **middle**² but it usually suggests an exact physical point: *the centre of the circle*. **Middle** is used when you cannot be so exact: *the middle of the forest*. **Middle** is more usual when thinking of things as lines rather than areas: *He was driving along the middle of the road* and when talking about rows of objects or people: *Eve was on the left, Bill was on the right and Tom was in the middle*. Only **middle** can be used to talk about time: *in the middle of the day/night*. ◀

middle³ *v* [T] to hit (a shot) properly with the middle of the BAT in cricket

Middle *adj* [A] (of a language) of a form that developed from an earlier stage, and into a later stage: *Middle French was spoken from about AD 1300 to 1600.* —compare MODERN¹ (3), OLD

middle age /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *n* [U] the period of life between youth and old age.

▷ CULTURAL NOTE Middle age is usually between about 40 to 60 years of age. Young people think of the middle-aged as being boring, dull, and unadventurous, and many people in their 30s do not want to become middle-aged. ◀

—compare MALE MENOPAUSE, MENOPAUSE, MID-LIFE CRISIS — **middle-aged** *adj*: *He's only 24, but he behaves as if he's already middle-aged.*

middle-aged spread /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ **midriff bulge** *esp. AmE— n* [U] *often humor* the fatness round the waist which many people get as they grow older

Middle Ages /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *n* [the+S] the period in European history between about AD 1100 and 1500 or sometimes, in a wider sense, between AD 500 and 1500

▷ CULTURAL NOTE The Middle Ages are associated with the rise of Christianity and its influence on life and society, in such things as MONASTICISM, the Crusades, and FEUDALISM. They are also thought of as a time when people were not well educated, and there was little art, music, or literature. ◀

Middle A-mer-i-ca /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *n* [U] **1** the midwestern part of the US **2** the group of Americans who are neither very poor nor very rich and who usually hold TRADITIONAL values (=values that have not changed much over the years): *political ideas unacceptable to Middle America*

mid-dle-brow /'mɪdlbrəʊ/ *n* sometimes *derog* a person who likes music, painting, poetry, etc., that is of quite good quality and is liked by lots of other people but is not too difficult to understand —compare Highbrow, Lowbrow — **middlebrow** *adj*

middle C /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *n* the musical note that is shown on the first additional line below the STAVE in the TREBLE CLEF and the first additional line above the stave in the BASS CLEF

middle class¹ /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ also **middle classes** *pl.— n* [the+S+*sing./pl. v*] the social class to which people belong who are neither noble, very wealthy, etc., nor workers with their hands, usu. consisting of business or professional people, some farmers, and skilled workers: *a mem-*

ber of the middle class/classes —compare LOWER CLASS, UPPER CLASS, WORKING CLASS and see also extra information on page 1258

middle-class² *adj* **1** belonging to or typical of the middle class **2** *derog* MATERIALISTIC or unadventurous: *bourgeois middle-class ideas*

middle course /'iː.ɪ/ *n* [S] *BrE* a course of action which is halfway between two very different ones (*esp. in the phrases follow/take/steer a/the middle course*): *a middle course between liberalism and conservatism*

middle-dis-tance /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *adj* [A] (in sport) over a distance that is neither very short nor very long, specifically the 800 metres and 1500 metres runs and the 3000 metres STEEPLECHASE: *a middle-distance race/runner*

middle distance [the] the part of a picture or view between what is close to the looker (FOREGROUND) and what is farthest away (background)

Middle East /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ [the] the countries of SW Asia and N Africa, around the eastern end of the Mediterranean, from Libya to Iran and including the Arabian Peninsula. Many countries in the Middle East are important oil producers, but people also often think of political problems, such as the Gulf War, when the Middle East is mentioned. —compare FAR EAST, NEAR EAST — ~ **ern** *adj*

Middle English /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ (*written abbrev. ME*) *n* English from about 1150 to 1500 AD

middle fin-ger /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *n* the longest finger, in the middle of the five fingers of the hand —see picture at HAND

middle ground /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *n* [U] a point of view that tries to account for two others that are very different from each other; COMPROMISE

mid-dle-man /'mɪdlmæn/ *n* -men /men/ a person who buys goods from a producer, and sells to a shopkeeper or directly to a user

middle man-age-ment /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *n* [U+*sing./pl. v*] (the level or rank of) people in a business company who are in charge of departments and groups within it, but are below those who make the main decisions about how the company is run

middle name /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *n* **1** a name coming between the FIRST NAME and the SURNAME

▷ CULTURAL NOTE It is common in Britain and the US to have a middle name and it can be a FORENAME or a SURNAME (e.g. a married woman's MAIDEN NAME), sometimes written as an INITIAL. It is not related to the family name and can be taken from anywhere. People sometimes have more than one middle name: "What's your middle name?" "It's Michael." ◀

2 one's middle name *infml* a main part of one's character: *Generosity is her middle name.* (=She is very generous.)

middle of no-where /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *n* [the+S] *infml derog* a place far away from towns, cities, etc.: *She lives in a little house out in the middle of nowhere.*

middle-of-the-road /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *adj* sometimes *derog* liking, holding, or being ideas, forms of expression, etc., that most other people like, and that do not make them angry or upset; not EXTREME: *a middle-of-the-road candidate | middle-of-the-road music/political views*

Mid-dles-brough /'mɪdlzbrəʊ/ an industrial town in the NE of England on the river Tees, where the local government for Cleveland is based

middle school /'iː.ɪ/ *n* **1** [C;U] (in certain countries) a school for children between the ages of 9 and 13 or 11 and 14 **2** [the+S] (in Britain) a part of a SECONDARY school for children of about 14 and 15 **3** (in the US) a JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, which includes GRADES 7 and 8 (ages 12 and 13) and either grade 6 or grade 9 —compare JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, —see also HIGH SCHOOL

Mid-dle-sex Hos-pi-tal /,mɪdlseks 'hɒspɪtl/ [the] a large TEACHING HOSPITAL in central London

middle-sized /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ *adj* neither very large nor very small

Middle Tem-ple /,ɪ.ˈlæn.tɪk/ [the] one of the four Inns of Court in London —see also INNS OF COURT

Mid-dle-ton /'mɪdl-tən/, **Thomas** (1580–1627) an English writer of plays who wrote SATIRICAL comedies (COMEDY¹) and tragedies (TRAGEDY¹), including *Women Beware Women*

mid-dle-weight /'mɪdlweɪt/ *n* a BOXER heavier than a

WELTERWEIGHT but lighter than a LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

Middle West /ˌmɪdˌl̩ˈwɛst/ [the] the MIDWEST — ~ **ern** *adj*

mid-dling /ˈmɪdlɪŋ/ *adj infml* between large and small, good and bad, etc.; average: “How are you feeling now?” “Oh, fair to middling.” (=fairly well, but not very well)

mid-field /ˈmɪdfi:ld/ *n* [U] 1 the middle part of a playing field, esp. in football, that is midway between the GOALS 2 the players on a team that usu. play in midfield

mid-field-er /ˈmɪdfi:ldə/ *n* (in sports such as football or LACROSSE) one of the players in a team who normally plays in midfield

midge /mɪdʒ/ *n* a very small flying and biting insect, like a MOSQUITO

midg-et¹ /ˈmɪdʒɪt/ *n* a very small or unusually small person —compare DWARF

midget² *adj* [A] very small: *a midget submarine*

Mid Gla-mor-gan /ˌmɪd gləˈmɔ:gən || -ˈmɔ:r-/ (written abbrev. **M Glam**) a COUNTY in the SE of Wales, known formerly for coal production

mid-i /ˈmɪdi/ *n* a woman's skirt that comes to between the knee and ankle

Mi-di /miːˈdi:/ [the] the S of France: *a holiday cottage in the Midi*

MIDI /ˈmɪdi/ *n* 1 Musical Instrument Digital Interface; a piece of ELECTRONIC equipment which allows electronic musical instruments, computers, and SYNTHESIZERS to be connected together and used at the same time 2 a kind of MUSIC CENTRE which includes a CD player

mid-land /ˈmɪdlənd/ *adj* [A] of the middle part of a country

Mid-land Bank /ˌmɪdˈlænd bɑːk/ also **Midland** — [the] one of the main British banks, branches of which can be found in many towns and cities in Britain —see also LISTENING BANK

Mid-land-er /ˈmɪdləndə/ *n* a person who comes from the Midlands

Mid-lands /ˈmɪdlənz/ *n* [the+P] the central parts of England, between the N and the S. It is an important area for light ENGINEERING industries.

mid-life cri-sis /ˌmɪdˈliːf ˈkriːsɪs/ *n* a continuing feeling of unhappiness, lack of confidence, etc. suffered by someone in the middle years of their life, when they feel that their youth has ended, usually about the age of 40 —compare MALE MENOPAUSE, MENOPAUSE, MIDDLE AGE

Mid-lo-thi-an /mɪdˈləʊθiən/ a former COUNTY in E Scotland, now part of Lothian REGION

mid-most /ˈmɪdməʊst/ *adj* [A] *lit* in the exact middle: *in the midmost part of the forest*

mid-night /ˈmɪdnait/ *n* [U] the middle of the night; 12 o'clock at night: *We close at midnight.* | *He didn't come in till after/past midnight.* | *The programme isn't on until a quarter to midnight.* | *The doctor received a midnight call.* —compare MIDDAY; see also **burn the midnight oil** (BURN¹)

midnight feast /ˌmɪdˈnaɪt ˈfiːst/ *n* a small amount of food eaten late at night, esp. sweet things eaten secretly by children at a BOARDING SCHOOL after they have gone to bed

Midnight Mass /ˌmɪdˈnaɪt mæs/ *n* [C;U] a special Christian religious service held at midnight on Christmas Eve, to celebrate Christmas and the birth of Christ

midnight sun /ˌmɪdˈnaɪt sʌn/ [the] the sun seen in the middle of the night at midnight in the very far north or south of the world

mid-point /ˈmɪdpɔɪnt/ *n* [(of) usu. sing.] a point at or near the centre or middle: *We are now at the midpoint of this government's period of office.*

mid-rash /ˈmɪdrɑːʃ/ *n* [U] (often cap.) a collection of ancient Jewish writings on the Bible

mid-riff /ˈmɪdrɪf/ *n* 1 *infml* the part of the human body between the chest and the waist: *The punch caught him in the midriff.* 2 **midriff bulge** (esp. AmE) MIDDLE-AGED SPREAD

mid-ship-man /ˈmɪdʃɪpmən/ *n* -men /mən/ The rank of someone who is training to become an officer in the Royal Navy —see TABLE 3

midst¹ /mɪdst/ *n* **in the midst of:** a in the middle of b *lit* among: *the enemy in our midst* (=among us) c *lit* surrounded by: *In the midst of all his troubles he managed to remain cheerful.*

midst² *prep* *old use* in the midst; among

mid-sum-mer /ˈmɪdˌsʌmə/ *n* [U] 1 the middle of summer 2 the summer SOLSTICE (21st or 22nd June)

Midsummer Day /ˌmɪdˈsʌmə dɪ/ *n* [C;U] BrE 24th June —see also SUMMER SOLSTICE

midsummer mad-ness /ˌmɪdˈsʌmə ˈmædˌnəs/ *n* [U] *infml lit* very foolish behaviour

Midsummer Night's Dream /ˌmɪdˈsʌmə ˈnaɪts driːm/, A a COMEDY by William Shakespeare, which is famous for the characters Puck, a SPRITE, Oberon and Titania, the king and queen of the fairies (FAIRY), and **Bottom**, a weaver. Titania has a magic SPELL put on her while she is asleep, so that she falls in love with the first creature she sees when she wakes. This is Bottom, who has been given an ass's (ASS) head. She thinks he is beautiful, until Oberon frees her from the spell.

mid-term /ˈmɪdtɜːm || -tɜːrm/ *n* AmE an examination in the middle of a (university) TERM: *The chemistry midterm was a real killer!*

midterm blues /ˌmɪdˈtɜːm ˈbluːz/ *n* [P] an expression used in newspapers etc. and by politicians to explain feelings of dissatisfaction expressed by the public midway through a government or a President's time in office

mid-town /ˈmɪdtəʊn/ *adj, adv* AmE in the area of a city near the centre but which is not the main business area —compare DOWNTOWN

Midtown *n* AmE a central area of a city, esp. the part of Manhattan S of Central Park

mid-way /ˌmɪdˈweɪ || ˈmɪdweɪ/ *adj, adv* halfway; in a middle position: *There's a small village midway between these two towns.* | *He was knocked out midway through the third round.*

Mid-way¹ /ˈmɪdweɪ/ two small islands in the Pacific Ocean NW of Honolulu used as an American air and navy base. In 1942 it was the scene of an important sea and air battle (the **Battle of Midway**).

Midway² an airport in Chicago, Illinois, used mostly for flights within the US

mid-week /ˌmɪdˈwiːk || ˈmɪdwiːk/ *adj, n* [U] (happening during) the middle days of the week; Tuesday, Thursday, and esp. Wednesday: *a midweek match*

Mid-west /ˌmɪdˈwest/ also **Middle West**—, **The (American)** *n* an area of the US in the middle of the country, including the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Oklahoma. Much of the Midwest is known for its rich farm land. —compare NORTH, SOUTH, SOUTHWEST, WEST; see also EAST COAST, NEW ENGLAND, PACIFIC NORTHWEST, WEST COAST, WILD WEST

mid-wife /ˈmɪdwaɪf/ *n* -wives /waɪvz/ a person, usu. a woman, who is not a doctor but helps women when they are giving birth to children: *a male midwife*

mid-wif-e-ry /ˌmɪdˈwɪfəri || -waɪfəri/ *n* [U] the skill or work of a MIDWIFE

mid-win-ter /ˌmɪdˈwɪntə/ *n* [U] 1 the middle of winter 2 the winter SOLSTICE (21st or 22nd December)

mien /miːn/ *n lit* a person's expression or appearance, as showing a particular (stated) feeling: *a thoughtful and solemn mien*

Mies van der Ro-he /ˌmɪz væn də ˈrəʊə || -də-/ , **Lud-wig** /ˈlʊdwɪg/ (1886–1969) an American ARCHITECT, best known for his many glass SKYSCRAPERS. His buildings are very modern, plain and FUNCTIONAL, without decoration. People either like them very much or not at all.

miffed /mɪft/ *adj* [F] *infml* slightly angry

might¹ /maɪt/ *v* 3rd person sing. **might**, *negative short form* **mightn't** [ˈməʊdəl+teɪv] 1 (used to show very slight possibility): *He might come, but it's very unlikely.* | *That car nearly hit me; I might have been killed!* (=but I wasn't) —compare MAY¹ (1) 2 (describes **may** in the past): *I thought it might rain.* (=I thought, “It may rain.”) | *They asked if they might go home.* (=They asked, “May we go home?”) | (fml) *He said I might go if I wished.* 3 BrE (used instead of **may**, for asking permission politely) “*Might I come in?*” “*Yes, of course you may.*” —compare MAY¹ (2) 4 (used like **ought** or **should**): *You might at least say “thank you” when someone helps you.* | *You might have offered to carry it!* (=I am angry because you

country, area, etc.) with military forces and defences: *the militarized zone* **2** to give a military character to: *a militarized police force*

mil-i-ta-ry ¹ /'mɪlɪtəri/ *adj* of, for, or by soldiers, armies, or war: *the providing of military aid to friendly states* | *combined naval and military operations* | *His bearing was very military.* (=he looked and acted like a soldier) | *a military hospital* | *He comes of a military family.* (=his father, grandfather, etc., were soldiers) —compare MILITANT

military ² *n* [the+P] soldiers; the army: *As the police could not keep order in the city, the military were called in to help.*

Military A-cad-e-my /,.... '..../ *n* **1** a state institution that offers higher military instruction, usually for officers, the best known in Britain being Sandhurst **2** a private secondary school in the US which includes military training and military uniforms

military band /,.... '..../ *n* a band of BRASS, WOODWIND, and PERCUSSION instruments connected to a military unit, which plays marching and concert music

Military Cross /,.... '..../ (*abbrev.* MC) [the] a MEDAL given to British army officers for bravery

military-in-dus-tri-al com-plex /,.... '..../ *n* the military forces and the large producers of weapons in a country or in the world, considered as a single, very powerful influence on governments

military po-lice /,.... '..../ *n abbrev* MP [the+P] (*often cap.*) a special police force formed of soldiers (**military police-men**), whose job is to deal with soldiers who break army rules

military ser-vice /,.... '..../ *n* [U] a system used in some countries by which young men (in some countries also young women) have to serve in the armed forces etc. for a period of time, often a year: *Did you have to do military service?* —see also DRAFT, NATIONAL SERVICE

mil-i-tate /'mɪlɪteɪt/ *v*

militate against sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to act as a reason against: *The fact that he'd been in prison militated against him when he applied for jobs.* [+v-ing] *The high risks involved in such a business venture militate against finding backers.*

mi-li-tia /mɪ'liʃə/ *n* [(the) C+*sing./pl.* v] a body of men (**militiamen**) not belonging to a regular army, but trained as soldiers to serve only in their own country if it is attacked or in times when there is violence and disorder in towns, cities, etc.

milk ¹ /mɪlk/ *n* [U] **1** a white liquid produced by women or female animals for the feeding of their young, and (in the case of cows' and goats' milk) drunk by human beings or made into butter, cheese, etc.: *a bottle of milk* | *skimmed milk* | *pasteurized milk* —see picture at BOTTLE **2** a whitish liquid or juice obtained from certain plants and trees: *coconut milk* **3** a land of milk and honey *lit* an imaginary place where life is easy and pleasant, with plenty of food **4** the milk of human kindness *lit or pomp* the pity for the sufferings of others that should be natural to human beings —see also CONDENSED MILK, EVAPORATED MILK, SKIMMED MILK, **cry over spilt milk** (CRY¹)

milk ² *v* **1** a [T] to take milk from (a cow, goat, etc.) **b** [I] (of a cow, goat, etc.) to give milk: *This cow isn't milking very well.* **2** [T] to get money, knowledge of a secret, etc., from (someone or something) by clever or dishonest means **3** [T] to take the poison from (a snake) **4** **milk something for all its worth** *esp. AmE* to take full advantage (of a situation) usu. in a way that is not approved of: *He's got a letter from a senator that he's milking for all its worth to get a job in the State Dept.*

milk choco-late /,.... '..../ *n* [U] solid chocolate made with the addition of milk —compare PLAIN CHOCOLATE

milk-er /'mɪlkə/ *n* **1** a cow that gives milk: *This one is our best milker.* **2** a person who milks cows, goats, etc. **3** a milking machine

milk float /'.... '..../ *n* *BrE* a vehicle used by a milkman for delivering milk, now usu. driven by electricity

milking ma-chine /'.... '..../ also **milker** *AmE* —*n* a machine used for taking milk from cows. More than one cow may be connected to the machine at the same time.

milk lake /'.... '..../ *n* a store of milk which is not needed or

used, esp. the one produced by the EC countries

milk-maid /'mɪlkmeɪd/ *n* (*esp. in former times*) a woman who milks cows; DAIRYMAID

milk-man /'mɪlkmən/ *n* -**men** /mən/ a person who sells milk, esp. one who goes on a regular journey from house to house each day to deliver it.

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain milkmen are usually men and many jokes are made about them having sex with women who are at home alone while their husbands are at work. ◀

Milk Mar-ket-ing Board /,.... '..../ [the] the organization in Britain that manages the sale of milk from farms to dairies (DAIRY) and finally to the public

milk of mag-ne-sia /,.... '..../ *n* [U] a thick white liquid containing MAGNESIUM, used to treat stomach problems and CONSTIPATION

milk pud-ding /,.... '..../ *n* a dish made of RICE, TAPIOCA, or SAGO, baked in sweetened milk and eaten at the end of a meal

Milk Race /'.... '..../ [the] a bicycle race round Britain which lasts for 13 days and covers about 2410 km (the name comes from the SPONSOR of the race, the Milk Marketing Board)

milk round /'.... '..../ *n* **1** [C] the regular journey a milkman makes every day to deliver milk to the same houses **2** [the] a number of visits to universities made by large companies who want to employ young people when they leave university

milk run /'.... '..../ *n infml* a familiar and frequently travelled journey or course

milk shake /,.... '..../ *n* a drink of milk and usu. ice cream shaken up and tasting of fruit, chocolate, etc.: *a strawberry milk shake*

milk-sop /'mɪlksɒp/ *n* *old-fash derog* a boy or man who is too gentle and weak, and is afraid to do anything dangerous

milk tooth /'.... '..../ also **baby tooth** *esp. AmE* —*n* any of the first set of teeth developed by young children and animals, which come before the main set

Milk Tray /,.... '..../ *n* [U] *tdmk* a selection of chocolates made by Cadbury's. In advertisements for Milk Tray, a man makes a dangerous and difficult journey, e.g. swimming across a lake or climbing a high mountain, to carry the chocolates to an attractive woman. At the end of his journey the advertisement says, "And all because the lady loves Milk Tray."

milk-weed /'mɪlkwɪd/ *n* [U] a common N American plant which lets out a bitter, milky-looking substance when its stem is broken, and which is said to cause much discomfort for people who suffer from HAY FEVER

milk-y /'mɪlki/ *adj* **1** made of, containing, or like milk: *milky coffee* (=made with a lot of milk) **2** (of water or other liquids) not clear; cloudy; having a milklike appearance —**iness** *n* [U]

Milky Bar /'.... '..../ *n* *tdmk* a type of chocolate bar made by Nestlé; Milky Bars are made of white chocolate

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Milky Bars are advertised on television by a child character called the Milky Bar Kid ◀

Milky Way /,.... '..../ *n* **1** the pale white band of stars that can be seen across the sky at night **2** the GALAXY in which Earth and the SOLAR SYSTEM are found **3** *tdmk* in Britain, a chocolate bar with a well-known advertising phrase "a sweet you can eat between meals without ruining your appetite" **4** *tdmk* in the US, a chocolate bar with a soft centre and CARAMEL inside

mill ¹ /mɪl/ *n* **1** also **flourmill** — (a building containing) a large machine for crushing grain into flour —see also MILLER, WATERMILL, WINDMILL **2** a factory: *a steel rolling mill* | *the cotton mills of Lancashire* (where cotton cloth was made) | *Paper is made in a paper mill.* —see also DARK SATANIC MILLS **3** a small machine for crushing or grinding (GRIND) the stated solid material: *a coffee mill* | *a pepper mill* **4** **put someone/go through the mill** to (cause to) pass through a time of hard training, hard experience, or suffering —see also RUN-OF-THE-MILL

mill ² *n* *AmE* a unit of money equal to 1/10 of a cent, used in setting taxes and other accounting purposes: *Three mills will be added to local property taxes to pay for the new school.*

mill ³ *v* [T] **1** a to crush (grain) in a mill **b** to produce (flour)

by this means **2** to press, roll, or shape (metal) in a machine **3** to mark (the edge of a coin) with regularly placed lines

mill about/around *phr v* [I] *infml* (of a large number of people) to move about in a place with no fixed shared purpose, each person going in different directions: *There was a crowd of people milling about in the streets.*

Mill, John Stuart (1806–73) an English thinker who wrote about economics and had a great influence on modern economics, politics, and thought. His book *On Liberty* argued that people should be free to do as they wished as long as they did not harm others.

Mil-lais /'mɪleɪ/, **Sir John Ev-e-rett** /dʒɒn 'evərɪt||dʒɑːn-/ (1829–96) an English painter, involved in the PRERAPHAELITE movement. His best-known works are *Christ in the Carpenter's Shop* and *The Boyhood of Raleigh*. — see picture at OPHELIA

Mill-bank /'mɪlbæŋk/ part of the N bank of the River Thames in London, on which stand the Tate Gallery and the **Millbank Tower**, a tall modern office building

mil-le-nar-i-an /,mɪlɪ'neəriən/ *n* a person who believes that the MILLENNIUM (2) will come — **millenarian** *adj*

mil-len-ni-um /mɪ 'lenɪəm/ *n* -**nia** /niə/ **1** [C] a period of 1000 years **2** [*the*+S] a future age in which all people will be happy and satisfied. Some CHRISTIANS believe this time will come very soon.

mil-le-pede /'mɪlɪpiːd/ *n* a MILLIPEDE

mill-er /'mɪlə/ *n* a man who owns or works a flourmill

Miller *n* [C;U] *tdmk* a kind of beer made by a US company. They sell their low-CALORIE beer, **Miller Lite**, with the phrase “Tastes great; less filling,” said by famous sports people in bars.

Miller, Arthur (1915–) an American writer of plays which deal with political or moral problems. His most famous works include *Death of a Salesman* and *The Crucible*. He was married for a time to Marilyn Monroe.

Miller, Glenn (1904–44) an American musician and band-leader whose dance music became popular during the Second World War. He is remembered esp. for his arrangement of the tune *In the Mood*.

Miller, Henry (1891–1980) an American writer best known for his NOVELS *Tropic of Cancer* and *Tropic of Capricorn* which were both banned (BAN¹) in the US until 1961 because of their descriptions of sexual activities. His books also contain scenes from his own life and thoughts on social and political subjects.

Miller, Jon-a-than /'dʒɒnəθən||'dʒɑː-/ (1934–) an English director, actor, and writer, known for his imaginative direction of plays for the National Theatre and for television. He is also a doctor and has made television programmes on medicine and the human body.

mil-let /'mɪlɪt/ *n* [U] the small seeds of certain grasslike plants, used as food — see picture at CEREAL

mil-li-bar /'mɪlɪbɑː/ *n* a measure of air pressure (ATMOSPHERE)

Mil-li-gan /'mɪlɪgən/, **Spike** (1918–) an Irish COMEDIAN and writer, born in India and living in England. A member of the Goons, he wrote much of their material. He has also appeared in films and on television and written humorous books and poetry.

mil-li-gram, -**gramme** /'mɪlɪgræm/ (*written abbrev. mg*) *n* a measure of weight — see TABLE 2

mil-li-li-tre *BrE* || -**ter** *AmE* /'mɪlɪ,lɪtrə/ (*written abbrev. ml*) *n* a liquid measure — see TABLE 2

mil-li-me-tre *BrE* || -**ter** *AmE* /'mɪlɪ,mɪtrə/ (*written abbrev. mm*) *n* a measure of length — see TABLE 2

mil-li-ner /'mɪlɪnə/ *n* *old-fash or tech* a person who makes and/or sells women's hats

mil-li-ne-ry /'mɪlɪnəri||-neri/ *n* [U] *old-fash or tech* **1** the articles made or sold by a milliner **2** the activity of making women's hats

mil-lion /'mɪljən/ *determiner, n, pron* **million** or **millions** **1** (the number) 1,000,000; 10⁶: *three million pounds* | (*infml*) *There were millions of people* (=a very large number of people) *there*. | (*infml*) *You've told me that a million times*. (=very/too often) **2** *a/one chance in a million* *infml* a very small chance **3** *feel/look like a million dollars* *infml* to feel/look wonderful **4** *in a million* *infml* one of the best possible; extremely good: *I've*

got a husband in a million. — ~ **th determiner, n, pron, adv**

mil-lion-aire /,mɪljə'neə/ **mil-lion-air-ess** /- 'neərɪs/fem. — *n* a person who has a million pounds or dollars; very rich person

mil-li-pede, **millepede** /'mɪlɪpiːd/ *n* a small animal rather like a worm, with a lot of legs

mill-pond /'mɪlpɒnd||-pɑːnd/ *n* **1** an area of water used for driving the wheel of a WATERMILL **2** *like a millpond* (of the sea) very calm

Mills /mɪlz/, **Sir John** (1908–) an English actor and director, best known for playing an English GENTLEMAN. His best-known films include *Ice Cold in Alex* and *Ryan's Daughter*.

Mills and Boon /, . . ' / a British company that publishes (PUBLISH) stories about love and ROMANCE are very popular and sell in large numbers. The stories usu. concern a young woman who, after many problems and difficulties, falls in love and marries her IDEAL man.

mill-stone /'mɪlstəʊn/ *n* **1** either of the two circular stones between which grain is crushed into flour in a mill **2** a person or thing that gives someone great trouble, anxiety, etc., and prevents them from acting freely or successfully over a very long period (esp. in the phrase **a millstone round someone's neck**): *His lazy son is a millstone round his neck*.

mill-wheel /'mɪlwɪːl/ *n* a large wheel that is turned by flowing water and is used for driving a mill

Milne /mɪln/, **A A** (1882–1956) an English writer, best known for his children's books such as *Winnie the Pooh*, and a collection of poems with the title *When We Were Very Young* — see also WINNIE THE POOH

milque-toast /'mɪlktəʊst/ *n, adj* *AmE* (of or being) a man who is too quiet, PASSIVE, or SHY

mil-om-e-ter /maɪ 'lɒmɪtə/||-'lɑː/ *n* a MILEOMETER

milt /mɪlt/ *n* [U] (the organ containing) the seeds (SPERM) of a male fish

Mil-ton /'mɪltən/, **John** (1608–74) an English poet, famous for his EPIC poem *Paradise Lost*, which was followed by *Paradise Regained*, written after he had gone blind. He also wrote many articles in support of the Parliamentarians and of freedom for the INDIVIDUAL.

Milton Keynes /,mɪltən 'kiːnz/ a town in Buckinghamshire, built as a NEWTOWN in 1967, which has many successful business companies. People in Britain connect Milton Keynes with the CONCRETE cows which were built in the town.

Mil-wau-kee /mɪl 'wɔːki/ the largest city of Wisconsin, US, an important Great Lakes port on Lake Michigan, known for its industries, esp. making beer — see colour map on pages 1374–5

mime¹ /maɪm/ *n* **1** [C;U] an act or the practice of using actions without language to show meaning: *I couldn't speak Chinese, but I showed in mime that I wanted a drink*. | *the art of mime* **2** [C] a simple theatrical play performed without words **3** [C] an actor who performs without using words

mime² *v* [I;T] to act (something) in mime: *The actor was miming the movements of a bird*. — compare MIMIC²

mim-e-o-graph¹ /'mɪmiəgrɑːf||-græf/ *n* *AmE* for DUPLICATOR **mimeograph**² *v* [T] *AmE* to make a copy of using a DUPLICATOR: *a mimeographed copy*

mi-met-ic /mɪ 'metɪk/ *adj* *usu. tech* copying; mimicking (MIMIC² (2)): *an insect's mimetic colouring*

mim-ic¹ /'mɪmɪk/ *n* **1** an actor who copies well-known people's speech, ways of behaving, etc. for entertainment **2** someone or something that copies the movement, appearance, etc. of other people or things

mimic² *v* -**ck**- [T] **1** to copy (someone or something), esp. in order to make people laugh: *She made us all laugh by mimicking the teacher/the teacher's voice*. **2** to look exactly like (something else) so as to deceive people: *pieces of paper that mimicked flowers* — compare IMITATE, MIMIC² — ~ **ry** *n* [U]

mimic³ *adj* [A] **1** *tech* giving protection by being like something else: *The mimic colouring of this moth protects them from predators*. **2** not real; pretended; MOCK

min *written abbrev. for*: **1** MINIMUM **2** minute(s)

min-a-ret /,mɪnə'ret, 'mɪnəret/ *n* a tall thin tower on a

MOSQUE, from which Muslims are called to prayer
min-a-to-ry /'mɪnətəri/ -təri/ *adj fml* showing an intention to hurt; threatening

mince¹ /mɪns/ *v* **1** [T] to make (esp. meat) into very small pieces, esp. with a knife or a MINCER: *minced chicken* **2** [I+adv/prep] *derog* to walk in an unnatural way, taking little short steps: *The actor minced across the stage.* **3** **mince matters/one's words** [*usu. in negatives*] to speak of something unpleasant without using plain direct words: *We're in trouble ... Not to mince matters, we're ruined!*

mince² *n* [U] **1** *BrE* minced meat **2** *AmE* mincemeat

mince-meat /'mɪns-mi:t/ *n* [U] **1** a mixture of apples, RAISINS, SUET, SPICES, etc., but no meat, used as a sweet filling to put inside pastry and eaten esp. at Christmas **2** **make mincemeat of infml** to defeat or destroy (a person, belief, etc.) completely: *He made mincemeat of their arguments.*

mince pie /,mɪnˌpiː/ *n* a small round covered piece of pastry filled with mincemeat, eaten at Christmas

minc-er /'mɪnsə/ also **mincing ma-chine** /'mɪnsɪŋ məˌʃiːn/ *n* a machine for cutting food, esp. meat, into very small pieces esp. by forcing it through small holes

minc-ing-ly /'mɪnsɪŋli/ *adv* in a mincing (MINCE¹ (2)) way

mind¹ /maɪnd/ *n* **1** [C;U] a person's (way of) thinking or feeling; thoughts: *Her mind is filled with dreams of becoming a great actress.* | *Ever since I heard that song on the radio I've been unable to get it out of my mind.* (=I cannot stop thinking about it) | *Let's go to the cinema – that'll take your mind off the problem for a while.* | *She looks very worried; I wonder what's on her mind.* | *She has a very open mind and is always ready to consider new ideas.* | *It's better to avoid him when he's in this unpleasant frame/state of mind.* | *It's a good idea – I'll bear it in mind.* (=continue to consider the possibility of doing it) | *A number of possibilities come to mind.* (=I can think of several) | *It never crossed my mind to ask you.* (=I never even had the idea of asking you.) | *The election was due soon, and with this in mind* (=because of this) *we decided to step up our publicity campaign.* | *Knowing that she'd arrived safely restored my peace of mind.* **2** [C *usu. sing.*] the ability to think and reason; INTELLECT: *He has a very sharp mind.* (=He thinks and understands quickly.) | *She could do it if she tried – the trouble is she just doesn't use her mind half the time.* | *He's not in his right mind/He's (gone) out of his mind.* (=is/has gone mad) | *She is of perfectly sound mind.* (=is not mad) | *You paid £2000 for it? Are you out of your mind?* | *You must be out of your mind!* **3** [U] memory: *I couldn't quite call his name to mind.* (=remember it) | *You must bear in mind* (=remember) *that their customs are very different to ours.* | *It (completely) slipped my mind/It went (right) out of my mind.* (=I forgot it) | *Now what was it called? It's somewhere at the back of my mind, but I can't quite remember it.* | *I've told you time out of mind* (=more times than I can remember) *to turn off the lights when you go out.* | *You put me in mind of* (=remind me of) *my brother.* **4** [C] attention: *Keep your mind on your work.* | *You can do it if you give/put your mind to it.* | *Let us now turn our minds to* (=begin to consider) *tomorrow's meeting.* **5** [C;U] an intention: *I'll put up the shelves if you tell me exactly what you have in mind.* (=where you intend them to be, how many you want, etc.) | *Nothing was further from my mind.* (=that was not at all what I meant) | *Those boys have been stealing my apples again; I've got a good mind to/I've half a mind to* (=I think I may possibly) *report them to the police.* | *Have you made up your mind* (=decided) *what to do yet?* | *If he's set his mind on doing it* (=decided firmly to do it), *nothing will stop him.* **6** [C] an opinion: *Since getting to know him better, I've changed my mind about him.* | *Why don't you speak your mind plainly?* (=say what you think) | *We are of one mind/of the same mind on this matter.* (=we think the same about it) | *To my mind* (=in my opinion) *you're quite wrong.* | *John thinks we should go to Scotland for our holiday, but I'm still in two minds about it.* (=I cannot decide) | *He'll get/I'll give him a piece of my mind* (=I will tell him my low opinion of him) *if he dares come here again!* | *She's old enough to know her own mind.* (=to have her own opinions and make her own decisions) **7** [C] a person considered for their ability to think well: *She's among the best minds* (=cleverest people) *in the country.*

8 [C;U] the power of reason as opposed to feelings: *Her mind told her one thing and her heart another.* | *a campaign designed to appeal to the hearts and minds* (=feelings and reason) *of the electorate* **9** [U] the human spirit and power of reason as opposed to the body, the material world, etc.: *He believes in mind over matter.* (=the control of events or material objects by the power of the mind) **10** **make up one's mind** to reach a firm decision – see also ABSENCE OF MIND, FRAME OF MIND, **meeting of minds** (MEETING), ONE-TRACK MIND, PRESENCE OF MIND, **blow someone's mind** (BLOW¹) **11** **great minds think alike** *humor* people who are very clever have the same opinions, usually said by someone who finds that another person agrees exactly with their opinion or action. People sometimes answer this saying with "Fools never differ", meaning that stupid people also share the same opinions.

mind² *v* **1** [I (OUT);T] *esp. BrE* to be careful (of); pay close attention (to): *Mind that step; it's loose!* | *Mind out!* *There's a car coming.* | *Just get on with your work; don't mind me.* (=do not pay any attention to my presence) [+ (that)] *Mind you don't drop it!* [+wh-] *Mind where you put your feet!* **2** [I;T *not in progressive forms*] (often used with **would**, in requests, and in negative sentences) to have a reason against or be opposed to (a particular thing); be troubled by or dislike (something): *"Which one would you like?" "I don't mind."* (=I would be pleased with either.) | *I wouldn't mind a cup of tea.* (=I would rather like one) [+v-ing] *Would you mind opening the window?* (=please open it) [+wh-] *I don't mind where we go.* | *Do you mind if I smoke?* | *"Have some more beer?" "I don't mind if I do."* (=yes, please) [+obj+v-ing] *Do you mind me smoking?* [+obj+adj] *Do you mind the window (being) open?* (=Does the window being open trouble you?) **3** [T] to take care or charge of; look after: *Our neighbour is minding our dog while we're on holiday.* | *Will you mind my bags while I make a telephone call?* **4** **Do you mind?** (shows annoyance): *Do you mind? That's my foot you're standing on.* **5** **mind one's own business** (*usu. imperative*) not to ask or take action about other people's private affairs: *"What has John sent you in that parcel?" "Mind your own business."* (=I will not tell you.) **6** **mind one's p's and q's infml** to be polite or careful in one's behaviour: *You'd better mind your p's and q's if you want to be invited again!* **7** **mind you** also **mind** – also take this fact into account: *He spends a lot of time in bed now; mind you, he is 93!* | *He's a very nice bloke, mind (you), but I wouldn't want to marry him.* (=but even though he is nice, I would not want to) **8** **never mind:** a don't worry: *"We've missed the train!" "Never mind, there'll be another in ten minutes."* **b** it does not matter (about): *"Never mind your damaged gate; what about the front of my car?" said the angry driver.* **c** *AmE* said when the speaker has decided not to repeat what he has just said, because it was not important or incorrect: *"What did you say?" "Never mind."* **9** **never you mind infml** it is not your business, and you are not going to be told: *Never you mind what your father and I were talking about.*

▷ **USAGE** In conversation **mind you** can be used to introduce new information which suggests a different point of view, or even contradicts something which has just been said: *I'm afraid I failed my exam. Mind you, I didn't have much time to study.* | *He's very selfish. Mind you, he's good to his mother.* | *"She's very charming, isn't she?" "Yes. I wouldn't believe a word she says, mind you."* ◁

MIND /maɪnd/ a British organization (a CHARITY) that gives advice and practical help to people who are mentally ill and their families, and tries to make people understand more about mental illness

mind-bend-ing /'mɪndˌbendɪŋ/ *adj infml* (causing an experience) so strange and difficult that one cannot understand: *mind-bending drugs*

mind-blow-ing /'mɪndˌbləʊɪŋ/ *adj infml* very exciting, surprising, shocking, or strange – see also **blow someone's mind** (BLOW¹)

mind-bog-gling /'mɪndˌbɒɡlɪŋ/ *adj infml* very surprising; difficult to imagine because so big, unusual, etc.

mind-ed /'maɪndɪd/ *adj* **1** [F+to-v] *fml* having the will or desire: *He has enough money to travel, if he were minded to do so.* **2** **-minded:** a having the stated kind of mind: *strong-minded* | *evil-minded* – see also ABSENT-MINDED, BLOODY-MINDED, BROADMINDED, CIVIC-MINDED, HIGH-MINDED,

LIKE-MINDED, NARROW-MINDED, OPEN-MINDED, SIMPLE-MINDED, SINGLE-MINDED **b** seeing the importance of the stated thing: *There'd be fewer accidents if all road-users were more safety-minded.*

mind-er /'maɪndə/ *n* BrE **1** someone employed to protect another person, often in the criminal world **2** (*usu. in comb.*) a person whose job it is to look after something: *a machine minder* —see also **CHILDMINDER**

Minder a British television series popular in the 1980s. It includes the character Arthur Daley.

mind-ful /'maɪndfəl/ *adj* [F+of] *fml* giving attention (to); not forgetful (of): *Mindful of the need to maintain efficient communications, the committee makes the following proposals.* . . —**ness** *n* [U+of]

mind-less /'maɪndləs/ *adj* **1** *derog* not having, needing, or using the power of thinking: *It's tiring and mindless work.* | *mindless cruelty* | *the mindless forces of nature* (=thunder, lightning, etc.) **2** [F+of] not giving attention (to); not thinking (about): *The fireman rushed into the burning house, mindless of the danger.* —**ly** *adv* —**ness** *n* [U]

mind read-er /'maɪndˌrɛdər/ *n* often *humor* a person who knows what another person is thinking without being told—**mind reading** *n* [U]

mind-set /'maɪndset/ *n* **1** AmE often *derog* a fixed state of mind which can't be changed by new ideas or persuasion: *I tried to talk to him but he's got a real mindset about foreigners.* | *the mindset of a hardened criminal* **2** BrE a person's way of thinking and reasoning: *We are looking for someone with a logical and analytical mindset to develop computer programs.*

mind's eye /'maɪndz aɪ/ *n* [the+S] the mind as a means of imagining scenes or views: *The old lady can still see in her mind's eye the house where she lived as a child.*

mine¹ /maɪn/ *pron* (possessive form of I) the one(s) that belong to me: *That's your coat; mine (=my coat) is here.* | *That's mine! Give it back to me.* | *She borrowed a book of mine.* (=one of my books)

mine² *determiner* *old use* (before a vowel sound or *h*, or after a noun) *my*: *mine host*

mine³ *n* **1** [C] (*often in comb.*) a deep hole or system of holes under the ground from which coal, gold, tin, or other mineral substances are dug: *a tinmine* | *Many of the workers were buried underground when there was an accident at the mine.* —compare **QUARRY**¹; see also **COALMINE**, **GOLDMINE** **2** [S+of] a very full supply: *The old man was a mine of information* (=told us a lot) *about the history of the village.* **3** [C] a kind of bomb that is placed just below the ground or in the sea and is exploded electrically from far away or when touched or passed over **4** [C] *old use* a passage dug underground beneath an enemy position

mine⁴ *v* **1** [I;T (for)] to dig or work a **MINE**³ (1) (in): *mining for coal* | *They'd mined the hillside for diamonds.* **2** [T] to obtain by digging from a **MINE**³ (1): *Tin used to be mined in south-western England.* **3** [T often pass.] to put **MINES**³ (3) in or under: *All the roads leading to the city had been mined.* **4** [T *usu. pass.*] to destroy by **MINES**³ (3): *Their ship was mined.* **5** [T] *old use* to dig a **MINE**³ (4) under: *Parties of soldiers mined the walls of the castle.* —see also **UNDERMINE**

mine sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T *usu. pass.*] to take all the minerals from (a place) by mining (**MINE**⁴ (1)): *The whole area has been mined out.*

mine de-tec-tor /'maɪndetektər/ *n* an instrument for discovering the presence of a **MINE**³ (3)

mine-field /'maɪnfɪld/ *n* **1** an area of land or water in which **MINES**³ (3) have been placed **2** something that is full of hidden dangers: *The legal system is a minefield for the ordinary person.*

min-er /'maɪnər/ *n* (*often in comb.*) a worker in a **MINE**³ (1)

min-e-ral /'maɪnərəl/ *n* **1** any of various esp. solid substances that are formed naturally in the earth, such as stone, coal, and salt, esp. as obtained from the ground for human use: *Gold is a mineral.* | *the mineral wealth of a country* **2** [*usu. pl.*] BrE for **MINERAL WATER** (2)

min-e-ral-o-gy /'maɪnərələdʒi/ -'rɑː-, -'ræ-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of minerals —**gist** *n*

mineral oil /'mɪnərəl ɔɪl/ *n* [C;U] oil obtained from minerals, as opposed to from plants or animals

mineral wa-ter /'mɪnərəl ˌwɔːtər/ *n* [C *usu. pl.*;U] water that comes from a natural spring and contains minerals. People who are concerned to eat healthy foods often drink mineral water as they believe that it is more healthy than water from the tap.

Miners' Strike /'mɪnəz strik/ [the] the **STRIKE** by British coal **MINERS** in 1984–5 in protest at government decisions to close mines. It is remembered for violent fights between the miners, led by Arthur Scargill, and the police. The prime minister, Mrs Thatcher, called the miners "the enemy within" (=the enemy inside the country).

Mi-ner-va /mɪˈnɜːvə/ -'zɜːr-/ in **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**, the Roman goddess of **WISDOM** and learning (Greek name **Athena**)

min-e-stro-ne /'mɪnɪˈstrəʊni/ *n* [U] an Italian soup containing vegetables and small pieces of **PASTA**

mine-sweep-er /'maɪnswɪpər/ *n* a naval ship fitted with apparatus for taking **MINES**³ (3) out of the sea —**ing** *n* [U]

Ming Dyn-as-ty /'mɪŋ ˌdɪnəsti/ -ˌdaɪ-/ [the] a family which ruled China from 1368 to 1644. The Ming **DYNASTY** (line of rulers) is connected with improvements in the arts and politics in China. Ming **VASES** (=pots made during the Ming rule) are famous for being beautiful and valuable.

min-gle /'mɪŋɡəl/ *v* [I;T (with, TOGETHER)] to mix (with another thing or with people) so as to form an undivided whole, while keeping separate qualities: *He rushed out into the busy street and mingled with the crowd, hoping that the police wouldn't spot him.* | *a speech that contained praise mingled with blame*

Min-gus /'mɪŋɡəs/, **Charles** (1922–79) American **JAZZ** player and influential **COMPOSER** who wrote the story of his own life, called *Beneath the Underdog*

min-gy /'mɪndʒi/ *adj* BrE *informal derog* not generous; **STINGY**: *a mingy person/present*

min-i /'mɪni/ *n* *informal* anything that is smaller than others of its kind, esp. **a** (*usu. cap., as tdmk*) a type of small British car, very popular among young people, esp. in the 1960s **b** a **MINI SKIRT**

mini- see **WORD FORMATION**

min-ia-ture¹ /'mɪniətʃər/ || 'mɪniətʃʊər/ *n* **1** a very small painting, *usu.* of a person **2** *in* **miniature** very like the stated thing or person, but much smaller

miniature² *adj* [A] (esp. of something copied) very small: *The child was playing with his miniature railway.*

miniature golf /'mɪniətʃərfɔːl/ || 'mɪniətʃʊər/ *n* [U] a **GOLF** game played on a miniature course having **TUNNELS**, bridges, sharp corners, and **OBSTACLES**, *usu.* done for fun rather than as a serious sport. Miniature golf courses are typically found in seaside holiday towns in Britain.

min-ia-tur-ist /'mɪniətʃərəɪst/ || 'mɪniətʃʊər-/ *n* someone who paints **MINIATURES**¹ (1)

min-ia-tur-ize /'mɪniətʃəraɪz/ || 'mɪniətʃʊər-/ *v* [T] to make very small: *The movie is about a scientist who invents a machine to miniaturize things, and he accidentally shrinks his kids.*

mini-bud-get /'mɪnɪbʊdʒet/ *n* an official statement from the government in order to make changes in a country's economy. It does not have as much detail as the main **BUDGET**.

min-i-bus /'mɪnɪbʌs/ *n* a small bus with seats for between six and 12 people: *The children go to school in a mini-bus/by minibus.*

min-i-cab /'mɪnɪkæb/ *n* BrE a taxi that can be called by telephone, but not stopped in the street —see picture at **TAXI**

min-i-com-put-er /'mɪnɪkəmˌpjʊtər/ *n* a computer that is larger than a **PERSONAL COMPUTER** and smaller than a **MAINFRAME**, used by businesses and other large organizations

min-im /'mɪnɪm/ BrE || **half note** AmE— *n* a musical note with a time value half as long as a **SEMIBREVE** —see picture at **NOTATION**

min-i-mal /'mɪnɪməl/ *adj* *fml* as little as possible; very little: *The storm did only minimal damage.* | *Her clothing was minimal.* —compare **MAXIMAL** —**ly** *adv*

minimal art /'mɪnɪməl ɑːt/ *n* [U] an art movement started in New York in the 1960s, involving esp. **SCULPTURES**, consisting of simple forms in an **IMPERSONAL** style

mini-mall, **minimall** /'mɪnɪməl/ *n* **STRIP MALL**

min-i-mize also **-mise** *BrE*— /'mɪnɪmaɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to lessen to the smallest possible amount or degree: *We had about twelve hours' warning, so we were able to minimize the effects of the flood.* **2** to cause to seem little; treat as not serious: *It would be most unwise to minimize the dangers of this course of action.* —compare MAXIMIZE

min-i-mum /'mɪnɪmə/ *adj, n* **-ma** /mə/ or **-mums** [A;C (of)] (being) the smallest number, amount, etc.: *This price is her minimum; she refuses to lower it any further.* | *minimum depth/temperature* | *He smokes a minimum of ten cigarettes a day.* | *He couldn't join the police, because he was below the minimum height allowed by the rules.* —compare MAXIMUM

minimum lend-ing rate /,mɪnɪməm 'leɪndɪŋ reɪt/ (abbrev. **MLR**) *n* the lowest rate of interest at which the Bank of England agrees to lend money, which influences the rate at which banks and building societies (BUILDING SOCIETY) lend money to the public

minimum wage /,mɪnɪməm 'weɪdʒ/ *n* [usu. *sing.*] the lowest wage permitted by law or by agreement for certain work, introduced so that all workers will have a reasonable standard of living. There is no minimum wage in Britain or the US.

min-ing /'maɪnɪŋ/ *n* [U] the action or industry of getting minerals out of the earth by digging: *coalmining* | *a mining company* —see also STRIP MINING

min-ion /'mɪnjən/ *n* *derog* or *humor* an employed person or helper who is too obedient: *He'll probably send one of his minions to buy the tickets.*

min-i-pill /'mɪnɪpɪl/ *n* a birth control **PILL** which contains only one kind of **HORMONE**, called **PROGESTOGEN**, while other types of birth control pills also contain **OESTROGEN**

mini-round-a-bout /,mɪni 'raʊndəbaʊt/ *n* *BrE* a small kind of **ROUNDABOUT** ¹(1), whose centre is a small painted circle on the road

min-is-cule /'mɪnɪskjuːl/ *adj* **MINUSCULE**

mini skirt, miniskirt /'mɪni 'skɜːt/ *n* a very short skirt which was popular in the 1960s and has been fashionable at various times since then

min-is-ter ¹/'mɪnɪstə/ *n* **1** [(of)] a politician who is a member of the government and is in charge of a particular government department: *the Minister of Education* —see also **PRIME MINISTER** **2** a **MINISTER OF STATE** or **MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO** **3** a Christian leader like a priest in some branches of the church —see **PRIEST (USAGE)** **4** a person of lower rank than an **AMBASSADOR**, who represents his/her government in a foreign country

▷ **USAGE Minister** (1) and (3) is not used for any US government officials, but it is used in American English for officials of other governments —compare **SECRETARY (2)** ◀

minister ² *v*

minister to sbdy. *phr v* [T] *esp. lit* to perform duties to help: *ministering to the sick*

min-is-ter-i-al /,mɪnɪ'stɪəriəl/ *adj* of a **MINISTER** ¹(1,3) or ministers: *his ministerial duties* | *It's believed that ministerial changes will be made in the near future.* (=that some ministers will be dismissed, and new ones appointed) —~*ly adv*

ministerial re-spon-si-bil-i-ty /,mɪnɪ'stɪəriəl 'rɛspənsəbɪlɪti/ *n* [U] the responsibility that government ministers should take for what happens in their departments

ministering an-gel /,mɪnɪ'stɪəriəl 'æŋdʒəl/ *n* *apprec, esp. BrE lit* a person, usu. a woman, who helps those who are sick or in trouble

minister of state /,mɪnɪ'stɪəriəl 'steɪt/ *n* *BrE* a person whose job is to help the minister who is the head of a government department: *Mr. Christopher Gurney, minister of state at the Foreign Office*

minister with-out port-fo-li-o /,mɪnɪ'stɪəriəl 'wiθaʊt pɔːtfoʊliəʊ/ *n* *BrE* a government minister with no specific departmental responsibilities (**RESPONSIBILITY** (3))

min-is-trant /'mɪnɪstrənt/ *n* *esp. lit* a person who gives service to others

min-is-tra-tion /,mɪnɪ'stɪəriən/ also **ministrations** *pl.* — *n* [U] *fml* (a) giving of help and service, esp. to the sick or to those needing the services of a priest: *All the ministrations of the doctors and nurses couldn't save the child's life.*

min-is-try /'mɪnɪstri/ *n* **1** [C (of)] (often *cap.*) a government

department with a minister in charge of it: *The army, navy, and airforce are all controlled by the Ministry of Defence.* **2** [*the*+**S**+*sing./pl. v*] priests, considered as a group or profession; **CLERGY**: *He joined the ministry.* (=became a priest)

Ministry of Ag-ri-cul-ture, Fisheries and Food /,mɪnɪ'stɪəriəl 'ægrɪkʌltʃər, 'fɪʃərɪz ænd 'fuːd/ also **MAFF**— the British government department which controls farming and food

Ministry of De-fence /,mɪnɪ'stɪəriəl 'defəns/ also **MOD**— [*the*] the British government department which is responsible for the army and other forces

Ministry of Sil-ly Walks /,mɪnɪ'stɪəriəl 'sɪli 'wɔːks/ [*the*] an imaginary government department shown in the British television **COMEDY** programme *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. The ministers who worked there all walked in very silly ways, e.g. by kicking their legs right up into the air with each step. —see also **MONTY PYTHON**

ministry of the in-te-ri-or /,mɪnɪ'stɪəriəl 'ɪntəriər/ *n* a government department which is responsible for public order inside a country and controls organizations such as the police and the fire service, as well as the movement of people into the country. In Britain this department is called the Home Office.

mink /mɪŋk/ *n* **mink** **1** [C] a small fierce animal like a **WEASEL** **2** [U] the valuable brown fur of this animal

▷ **CULTURAL NOTE** Mink is considered to be the finest and most expensive fur by many people. Others now consider using mink for coats as cruel and **CAMPAIGN** against it: *a mink coat* ◀

Min-ne-ap-o-lis /,mɪni 'æpəlɪs/ a city in E Minnesota, US, on the Mississippi river, known as an important industrial centre and port. It is one of the Twin Cities, along with Saint Paul across the river. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Min-ne-ha-ha /,mɪni 'hæhæ/ according to **NATIVE AMERICAN** stories, the wife of Hiawatha

Min-nel-li /mɪ 'neli/, **Li-za** /'laɪzə/ (1946–) an American singer and actress, who is famous esp. for the film *Cabaret* (1972)

Liza Minnelli



Min-ne-so-ta /,mɪnɪ 'səʊtə/ (*written abbrev* **MN**) a state in the north of the US, an industrial and farming area with many farms which produce milk —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Min-nie Mouse /,mɪni 'maʊs/ a **CARTOON** character, a female mouse who is the partner of Mickey Mouse —see also **MICKEY MOUSE** ¹

min-now /'mɪnəʊ/ *n* a very small fish of rivers and lakes: (fig.) *When they found the criminals the police arrested the minnows* (=unimportant ones) *but let the big fish* (=important ones) *go.*

Min-o-an /mɪ 'nəʊən/ *adj* of or about the civilization of ancient Crete (3000–1100 BC)

Mi-nogue /mɪ 'nəʊg/, **Ky-lie** /'kaɪli/ (1968–) an Australian singer and actress who, with Jason Donovan, appeared in the Australian television **SOAP OPERA**, *Neighbours*, and then went on to become a successful singer, popular esp. with young **TEENAGERS**

Minolta /mɪ 'nɒltə/ *tdmk* a camera made by the Japanese company Minolta

mi-nor ¹/'maɪnər/ *adj* **1** lesser or smaller in degree, size, number, or importance when compared with others: *He left most of his money to his sons; his daughter received only a minor share of his wealth.* | *The young actress was given a minor part in the new play.* | *The important thing is to finish it quickly; cost is only a relatively minor consideration.* | *a minor flaw/alteration* | *The infection/operation is fairly minor; nothing to worry about.* —opposite **major**; see **MAJOR (USAGE)** **2** being or based on a musical **SCALE** on which there are **SEMITONES** between different notes than those of the **MAJOR SCALE**: *in a minor key* | [*after n*] *a symphony in F minor* **3** [*after n*] *BrE old-fash* being the younger of two boys of the same name in the same school: *Simkins minor* —opposite **major**

minor² *n* **law** a person below the age (now 18 in Britain and the US) at which they are fully responsible in law for their actions

minor³ *v* **minor in** sthg. *phr v* [T] *AmE* to study as an extra subject when doing a university degree

Mi-nor-ca /mɪˈnɔːkə/ -ˈnɔːr-/ also **Menorca**— an island in the Spanish Balearic islands, popular with British tourists

mi-nor-i-ty /maɪˈnɔːrɪti/ mɪˈnɔː-, mɪˈnɔː-/ *n* **1** [(the) *S+sing./pl. v*] the smaller number or part; less than half: *Most of the nation wants peace; only a minority wants the war to continue.* | *Boys are very much in the minority at the dancing class.* (=most of the pupils are girls) | *Three members of the committee disagreed with the main report, so they produced a minority report.* (=one that only represented the views of those three members) | *TV programmes that cater for minority interests* (=things that not many people are interested in) **2** [*C+sing./pl. v*] a small part of a population which is different from the rest in race, religion, etc.: *a law to protect religious minorities/ethnic minorities* **3** [U] **law** the state or time of being a MINOR²: *The court appointed me as the boy's guardian during his minority.* —opposite **majority**

minority gov-ern-ment /ˌmɪnərɪˈteɪ/ *n* a government which has fewer seats in a parliament than the combined opposition parties have —see also extra information on page 410

minority lead-er /ˌmɪnərɪˈleɪdər/ *n* **1** a person who represents a MINORITY group of people, esp. black and Asian citizens in Britain **2** *AmE* a leader of the political party in a LEGISLATURE which has fewer representatives than the leading party —compare **MAJORITY LEADER**

minor league /ˌmɪnərˈliːɡ/ *n* *AmE* a group of professional sports clubs, esp. **BASEBALL** clubs, that are not in the large national LEAGUES: *a minor league pitcher*

minor plan-et /ˌmɪnərˈplænɪt/ *n* an **ASTEROID**

minor suit /ˌmɪnərˈsuɪt/ *n* (in the card game **BRIDGE**³) either **CLUBS**¹ (6) or **DIAMONDS** (3), which have a lower value than the **MAJOR SUITS**

Min-o-taur /ˈmɪnətɔːr/ ˈmaɪ-/ [*the*] in **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY** a creature which was half a man and half a **BULL**, which was kept in the **LABYRINTH** and fed on young men and women. It was killed by Theseus.

min-ster /ˈmɪnstər/ *n* *BrE* (often *cap.*) (now usu. part of a name) a large or important church, esp. one that formed part of an **ABBEY**: *Westminster* | *York Minster*

min-strel /ˈmɪnstrel/ *n* **1** a travelling musical entertainer in the Middle Ages **2** (esp. in former times) any of a group of performers who travel about giving amusing song and dance shows

min-strel-sy /ˈmɪnstrelsi/ *n* [U] *rare* the art, songs, and music of a minstrel

mint¹ /mɪnt/ *n* **1** [U] a small plant whose leaves have a particular fresh smell and taste and are used in food and drinks: *mint tea* | *roast lamb with mint sauce* **2** [*C;U*] (a) **PEPPERMINT** or a sweet containing mint: *Have one of these mints!* | *after-dinner mints*

mint² *n* **1** [*C*] a place where coins are officially made by the government: *the Royal/Denver Mint* **2** [*S*] *infml* a large amount (of money): *He must be making a mint!* **3** **in mint condition** (of objects which people collect for pleasure, such as books, postage stamps, or coins) in perfect condition, as if new and unused

mint³ *v* [T] **1** to make (a coin) **2** to invent (a new word, phrase, etc.) —see also **COIN**² (3)

mint ju-lep /ˌmɪntˈdʒulep/ *n* see **JULEP**

Min-ton /ˈmɪntən/ *n* [U] a fine **BONE CHINA** made in Stoke-on-Trent in England (from Thomas **Minton** (1765–1836) who started the factory). The famous **WILLOW PATTERN** plates etc. are said to have been made first by the Minton company.

mint sauce /ˌmɪntˈsaʊs/ *n* [U] a mixture of **VINEGAR**, sugar, salt, and finely cut mint, usu. eaten with **ROAST lamb**

min-u-et /ˌmɪnjuˈet/ *n* (a piece of music for) a type of slow graceful 17th- and 18th-century dance

mi-nus¹ /ˈmaɪnəs/ *prep* **1** made less by (the stated quantity): *17 minus 5 leaves/equals 12* (17–5=12). **2** being the stated number of degrees below the freezing point of water: *The temperature was minus 10 degrees* (=–10°). **3**

infml without: *He won the fight, but when it ended he was minus two front teeth.* —opposite **plus**

minus² *n* **1** also **minus sign** /ˈmɪnəs/ a sign (–) showing that a number is less than zero, or that the second number is to be taken away from the first **2** a disadvantage: *Traffic noise is one of the minuses of living on a main road.* —opposite **plus**

minus³ *adj* **1** [*A*] (of a number or quantity) less than zero **2** [*A*] disadvantageous: *He's very keen, but his youth is a minus factor.* **3** [after *n*] (of a mark) coming low in a range: *I got a B for my last essay, but only a B minus for this one.* —opposite **plus**

min-us-cule, miniscule /ˈmɪnɪskjuːl/ *adj* extremely small: *a minuscule amount*

min-ute¹ /ˈmɪnɪt/ *n* **1** any of the 60 parts into which an hour is divided: *The train arrived at four minutes past eight.* | *It's a ten minute walk/a few minutes' walk from here to the station.* **2** *infml* a very short period of time; **MOMENT**: *I'll be ready in a minute/a few minutes.* | “Are you ready yet?” “No, but I won't be a minute.” (=I'll be ready very soon) | *Just a minute/Hang on a minute.* (=wait for a moment) — *I want to talk to you.* | *He can never make up his mind; one minute he says he wants to go, and the next he says he doesn't.* | *Have you got a minute?* (=Can I talk to you for a short time?) | *No, I'm not suggesting for a minute* (=certainly not suggesting) *that he's lying.* **3** any of the 60 parts into which a degree of angle is divided **4** a short official note asking for certain action to be taken, expressing an opinion, etc.: *The minister read the report and then added a minute expressing his complete agreement.* —see also **MINUTES** **5** **the minute (that)** as soon as: *I recognized him the minute (that) I saw him.* —see also **LAST MINUTE**, **UP-TO-THE-MINUTE**

minute² *v* [T] *BrE* to make a note of (something) in the **MINUTES** of a meeting: *I want my disagreement to be minuted.*

mi-nute³ /maɪˈnjuːt/ -ˈnuːt/ *adj* **1** very small: *His writing's minute.* | *a minute improvement* **2** *fml* giving attention to the smallest points; very careful and exact: *in minute detail* — *~ly adv*: *He examined the jewel minutely.* — *~ness n* [U]

minute bell /ˈmɪnɪt bel/ *n* in Britain, a church bell that rings every minute while a funeral **PROCESSION** is going to or leaving a church

minute gun /ˈmɪnɪt ɡʌn/ *n* in Britain, a gun fired every minute at funerals of very important people or **COMMEMORATION** ceremonies, or as a signal for help

minute hand /ˈmɪnɪt hænd/ *n* the long hand that marks the minutes on a watch or a clock

min-ute-man /ˈmɪnɪtmæn/ *n* -**men** /men/ *AmE* during the American Revolution, one of a group of men who were not official soldiers but who could be ready in one minute to fight against the government. Today the word is sometimes used in advertising by companies who want to show how quick their service is.

min-utes /ˈmɪnɪts/ *n* [(the) *P* (of)] an official written record of what is said at a meeting, and what decisions are taken there: *Before the committee started its work, the minutes of the last meeting were read out.* | *to take* (=write) **minutes**

minute steak /ˈmɪnɪt steɪk/ *n* a thin piece of **STEAK** that can be quickly cooked

mi-nu-ti-ae /maɪˈnjuːʃiəl, mɪˈnjuː-/ *n* [(the) *P* (of)] small exact details that often do not seem worth considering: *These are the broad outlines of what I want; I'll leave it to you to work out the minutiae.*

mips /mɪps/ *n* [*S*] *tech* millions of instructions per second; a unit for measuring the speed of a computer: *Their new range runs at 25 mips.*

mir-a-cle /ˈmɪrəkəl/ *n* **1** an action done by esp. a holy person that is impossible according to the ordinary laws of nature: *According to the Bible, Christ worked/performed many miracles, such as turning water into wine.* **2** a wonderful unexpected event: *It's a miracle you weren't killed!* | *It'll need a miracle to save the company from ruin.* | *an economic miracle* | *the miracles of modern science* | *a miracle cure* —**culous** /mɪˈrækjʊləs/ *adj*: *a miraculous escape/recovery* —**culously** *adv*: *It was a terrible explosion but, miraculously, no one was killed.*

miracle play /ˈmɪrəkəlˈpleɪ/ also **mystery play**— *n* a theatrical play

often performed in the Middle Ages, based on stories from the Bible or on the lives of holy men and women —compare MORALITY PLAY

mi-rage /'mɪrɑːʒ||mɪ'rɑːʒ/ *n* **1** a strange effect of hot air conditions in a desert, in which objects appear which are not really there **2** a dream, hope, or wish that cannot come true: *pursuing the mirage of world peace*

Mi-ran-da /mɪ'rændə/, **Carmen** (1913–55) a star of musical films, who was known as "The Brazilian Bombshell". She is best remembered for her hats made of fruit.

Carmen Miranda



Miranda de-ci-sion /'mɪrəndəˈdeɪʒən/ *n* [the] a 1966 decision by the US SUPREME COURT that said it was necessary for police, when arresting (ARREST) people, to inform them of their legal rights, esp. the right to remain silent.

MIRAS /'maɪræs, -rəs/ a system in Britain which allows a person who has a MORTGAGE to pay no tax on the interest payable on the money he/she has borrowed from a Building Society or bank. The Building Society can then claim the money from the government (the word stands for Mortgage Interest Relief at Source).

mire¹ /maɪə/ *n* [U] esp. lit deep mud: *like pigs in the mire* | (fig.) *His name was dragged through the mire.* (=talked about publicly in a way that brought shame on him) | (fig.) *With each probing question he was getting sucked deeper into the mire.* (=more and more caught up in difficulties) —**miry** *adj*

mire² *v* [T] esp. lit, rare **1** [(in)] to cause (a person) to be caught up in difficulties **2** to make dirty with mud

Mi-ró /mɪ'rəʊ/, **Jo-an** /ʒuˈɑːn/ (1893–1983) a Spanish SURREALIST painter, famous for his use of bright colours and ABSTRACT shapes

mir-ror¹ /'mɪrə/ *n* **1** (often in comb.) a piece of glass, or other shiny or polished surface, that REFLECTS (=throws back) images: *The driver saw the police car in his mirror.* | *a shaving mirror* | *a full-length mirror* (=tall enough to REFLECT a standing person) **2** [(of)] an exact or close representation (of something): *This newspaper claims to be the mirror of public opinion.* (=claims to express what the people are really thinking) **3** **mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?** a question asked by the wicked queen in the story of Snow White. The queen expects the mirror to say that she is the most beautiful of all, but the mirror tells her that Snow White is the most beautiful. This phrase is often used in jokes, advertising, newspapers, etc. —see also SNOW WHITE

mirror² *v* [T] **1** to give an exact or close representation of: *Do these opinion polls really mirror what people are thinking?* **2** to be similar to, esp. as if by copying: *My experience of working in this area closely mirrors your own.*

Mirror [the] the DAILY MIRROR

Mirror Group News-pa-pers /'mɪrəˌgruːp/ also the **Mirror Group** /'mɪrəˌgruːp/ — a company, formerly owned by Robert Maxwell, which publishes (PUBLISH) the Daily Mirror, the Daily Record, the People, the Sunday Mirror, and Sporting Life

mirror im-age /'mɪrəˌɪmɪdʒ/ *n* [(of)] **1** an image of something in which the right side appears on the left, and the left side on the right **2** something, such as an object or a situation, that looks like or is very similar to something else, but whose various parts may sometimes be arranged in a different or opposite way

mirth /mɜːθ||mɜːrθ/ *n* [U] esp. lit happiness and laughter —**ful** *adj* —**fully** *adv* —**less** *adj* —**lessly** *adv*

MIRV /mɜːv||mɜːrv/ *n* multiple independently-targeted reentry vehicle; a MISSILE (=a flying weapon) which has several bombs on it, each of which can be directed to hit a different place

mis- see WORD FORMATION

MIS /'em aɪ 'es/ management information system; a group of computer PROGRAMS that arrange information in computers in a form that is useful to business managers

mis-ad-ven-ture /'mɪsəd'ventʃə/ *n* [C;U] **1** lit (an) accident; (piece of) bad luck **2** **death by misadventure** BrE law accidental death

mis-al-li-ance /'mɪsə'laɪəns/ *n* an unsuitable uniting of people, esp. an unsuitable marriage

mis-an-thrope /'mɪsənθrəʊp/ also **mis-an-thro-pist** /'mɪs-ænθrəpɪst/ — *n* fml derog a person who dislikes other people and would rather be alone —compare MISOGYNIST —**-thropic** /'mɪsən'thrɒpɪk/ —**-thrac-** /'θrɑː/ *adj* —**-tropically** /kli/ *adv*

mis-an-thro-py /'mɪs-ænθrəpi/ *n* [U] fml derog dislike of people in general

mis-ap-ply /'mɪsə'plai/ *v* [T] to use wrongly or for a wrong purpose —**-plication** /'mɪsæplɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [C;U (of)] : a misapplication of the law

mis-ap-pre-hend /'mɪsæprɪ'hend/ *v* [T] fml to understand (something) wrongly: *The terms of the agreement must be quite explicit, so that there is no possibility of misapprehending them.*

mis-ap-pre-hen-sion /'mɪsæprɪ'hensjən/ *n* fml a mistaken belief; misunderstanding: *He's not Mr Hart's brother? Then I've been (labouring) under a misapprehension.*

mis-ap-pro-pri-ate /'mɪsə'prɒ'priət/ *v* [T] fml or tech to take dishonestly, esp. for one's own use: *The lawyer was sent to prison for misappropriating the money placed in his care.* —**-ation** /-əprəʊprɪ'eɪʃən/ *n* [C;U (of)]

mis-be-got-ten /'mɪsbɪ'gɒtn/ —**-gaː-** / *adj* [A] derog or humor **1** unlikely to succeed because badly planned or foolish: *his misbegotten scheme for selling fur coats during the summer* **2** (of a person) worthless; annoying: *Where's that misbegotten brother of yours?*

mis-be-have /'mɪsbɪ'heɪv/ *v* [I;T] to behave (oneself) badly: *Anyone in the crowd who misbehaves is quickly thrown out of the ground.*

mis-be-ha-vi-our BrE || **-vior** AmE /'mɪsbɪ'heɪvjə/ *n* [U] bad behaviour

misc. written abbreviation for: MISCELLANEOUS

mis-cal-cu-late /'mɪs'kælkjʊleɪt/ *v* [I;T] **1** to calculate (figures, time, etc.) wrongly: *I missed the train because I'd miscalculated the time it would take me to reach the station.* **2** to form a wrong judgment (about): *If she thinks I'll agree to that she's miscalculated badly.* —**-lation** /'mɪs'kælkjʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

mis-call /'mɪs'kɔːl/ *v* [T+obj (+n)] fml to call by a wrong name

mis-car-riage /'mɪs'kærɪdʒ, 'mɪskærɪdʒ/ *n* a case of accidentally giving birth to a child too early for it to live, esp. between the 12th and 28th weeks of PREGNANCY —compare ABORTION (1), STILLBIRTH

miscarriage of jus-tice /'mɪs-ərɪdʒəv 'dʒʌstɪs/ *n* [C;U] (a) failure to act justly, esp. in a court of law: *She was found guilty on a technical legal point, even though she was clearly innocent. What a miscarriage of justice!*

mis-car-ry /'mɪs'kæri/ *v* [I] **1** (of a woman) to have a miscarriage —compare ABORT (1,2) **2** fml (of an intention, plan, etc.) to be unsuccessful; fail to have the intended result

mis-cast /'mɪs'kɑːst/ —**-kæst** / *v* **miscast** [T usu. pass.] **1** [(as)] to give (an actor) an unsuitable part in a play, film, etc.: *He was badly miscast as Julius Caesar.* **2** to put an unsuitable actor or actors into (a part, play, etc.)

mis-ce-ge-na-tion /'mɪsɪdʒə'neɪʃən/ —**-sedʒ-** / *n* [U] the production of children by a sexual union of people of different races, esp. when one of the partners is white

mis-cel-la-ne-ous /'mɪsə'leɪniəs/ *adj* of several kinds or different kinds; too various to be called by a single name: *There are categories for all major areas of expenditure, and then one at the end for miscellaneous items.* —**-ly** *adv* —**-ness** *n* [U]

mis-cel-la-ny /'mɪ'seləni/ || **'mɪsɪleɪni** / *n* [(of)] a mixture of various kinds, esp. a collection of writings on different subjects or by different writers: *a miscellany of American short stories*

mis-chance /'mɪs'tʃɑːns/ —**-tʃæns** / *n* [C;U] fml (an example of) bad luck: *By sheer mischance the letter was sent to the wrong address.*

mis-chief /'mɪstʃɪf/ *n* **1** [U] behaviour, esp. of children, that causes trouble and possibly damage, but no serious harm: *getting into mischief* | *She suspected the children*

were up to some mischief and she found them in the garden digging up the flowers. | We allowed the children to watch a film on television, to keep them out of mischief. **2** [U] slightly wicked playfulness: She gave her father a smile that was full of mischief. **3** [U] *fml* damage or harm; wrong-doing: The storm did a lot of mischief to the crops. **4** [C] *infml*, rather old-fash a troublesomely playful child **5** do someone/oneself a mischief *esp. BrE, usu. humor* to hurt someone/oneself: If you try to lift that box you'll do yourself a mischief! **6** make mischief (between) *infml* to speak so as to cause quarrels, unfriendly feelings, etc., between people — see also **mean mischief** (MEAN²)

mischievous /ˈmɪʃjəvəs/ *adj* **1** sometimes *apprec* playfully troublesome: One expects healthy children to be mischievous at times. | a mischievous grin/glance **2** causing harm, often intentionally: a mischievous remark — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

mis-con-ceive /ˈmɪskənˈsi:v/ *v* [T] **1** to plan (something) badly: The government's plan to privatize the railways is wholly misconceived. **2** *fml* to place a wrong meaning on; misunderstand

mis-con-ception /ˈmɪskənˈsepʃən/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) understanding something wrongly: [+that] the popular misconception that governments can guarantee full employment (=many people think this, wrongly)

mis-con-duct¹ /ˈmɪskənˈdʌkt/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** intentional bad behaviour, *esp. unacceptable sexual behaviour*: The doctor was found guilty of professional misconduct. **2** [(of)] bad control, e.g. of a business company

mis-con-duct² /ˈmɪskənˈdʌkt/ *v* [T] *fml* to control (a business, etc.) badly; deal badly with: The board has so mis-conducted the affairs of the company that it's deep in debt.

mis-con-struc-tion /ˈmɪskənˈstrʌkʃən/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (an example of) mistaken understanding: A law must be stated in the clearest language, so that it is not open to mis-construction. (=so that it cannot be misunderstood)

mis-con-strue /ˈmɪskənˈstru:/ *v* [T] *fml* to understand or take (something said or done) wrongly: Don't misconstrue what I am about to say ...

mis-count /ˈmɪskaʊnt/ *v* [I;T] to count wrongly: The teacher miscounted the number of boys. — **miscount** /ˈmɪskaʊnt/ *n*: a miscount in the election results

mis-cre-ant /ˈmɪskriənt/ *n* *old use* a person of bad character

mis-deed /ˈmɪsˈdi:d/ *n* *fml* or *lit* a wrong or illegal action; offence: The selection committee decided to overlook his past misdeeds.

mis-de-mea-nour *BrE* || **-nor** *AmE* /ˈmɪsdiˈmi:nəʊ/ *n* **1** law a crime that is less serious than, for example, stealing or murder — compare **FELONY** **2** *fml* a bad or improper act that is not very serious

mis-di-rect /ˈmɪsdɪˈrekt/ *v* [T] **1** to direct wrongly: a mis-directed letter (=sent to the wrong address) **2** to use (one's efforts, abilities, etc.) in the wrong way, or for a wrong purpose: misdirected energy **3** (of a judge) to guide (a JURY) incorrectly on the law — *~ion* /ˈrekʃən/ *n* [U] (of)]

mise-en-scène /ˈmi:z ɒn ˈsen, -ˈseɪn/ *n* **mise-en-scènes** (same pronunciation) *Fr* **1** *tech* the arrangement of furniture, scenery, and other objects used on the stage in a play **2** *lit* or *pomp* the surroundings in which an event takes place

mi-ser /ˈmaɪzə/ *n* *derog* a person who loves money and hates spending it, and often lives in very poor conditions in order to become wealthy by storing all his money — *~liness n* [U] — *~ly adj*: a miserly attitude

mis-e-ra-ble /ˈmɪzəɪəbəl/ *adj* **1** very unhappy: The child's cold, hungry, and tired, so of course he's feeling miserable. **2** causing unhappiness, discomfort, etc.: a cold wet miserable day | miserable living conditions **3** [A] sometimes *derog* very low in quality or very small in amount; CONTEMPTIBLE OR PATHETIC: All they offered us was a few miserable pounds. | a miserable failure — *bly adv*

mis-e-ry /ˈmɪzəri/ *n* **1** [S;U] also **miseries pl.** — a condition of great unhappiness or great pain and suffering of body or mind: the unspeakable misery of their existence, kept in tiny cages with no light and little food | The new neighbours play loud music all the time and it's making

our lives a misery. **2** [C] *derog infml, esp. BrE* a person who is always complaining, *esp. one who does not like others to enjoy themselves*: You old misery! **3** put something/someone out of its/their misery: a to kill an animal in order to end its suffering b *infml* to cause someone to stop feeling anxious, *esp. by telling them something they are waiting to find out*: Let's put the interviewees out of their misery and tell them who's got the job.

mis-field /ˈmɪsfɪld/ *v* [I;T] to make a mistake in fielding (FIELD² (1)) the ball in cricket, BASEBALL, etc.

mis-fire /ˈmɪsˈfaɪə/ *v* [I] **1** (of a gun) to fail to send out the bullet when fired **2** (of the petrol mixture in a car engine) to fail to IGNITE at the proper time: The engine mis-fired several times. **3** (of a plan, joke, etc.) to fail to have the intended result — **misfire n**

mis-fit /ˈmɪsˌfɪt/ *n* someone whose character or behaviour makes them unsuited to the way they live, the people they work with, etc.: a social misfit

mis-for-tune /ˈmɪsˈfɔ:tʃən/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) bad luck, often of a serious kind: His failure in business was due not to misfortune, but to his own mistakes. | I had the misfortune to have my driving licence taken away for a minor offence.

mis-giv-ing /ˈmɪsˈgɪvɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] (a feeling of) doubt, distrust, or fear, *esp. about a future event*: He looked with misgiving at the strange food on his plate. | I could see he had some misgivings about lending me his car.

mis-guid-ed /ˈmɪsˈgaɪdɪd/ *adj* (of a person or behaviour) directed by mistaken ideas; not sensible, *esp. in trying to do something that will not work or will have bad results*: It was misguided of him to pay his daughter's debts again; she ought to learn to manage money. | her well-meaning but misguided attempts to reconcile the ex-lovers — *~ly adv*

mis-han-dle /ˈmɪsˈhændl/ *v* [T] to handle or treat roughly, without skill, or insensitively: This detector is a very delicate instrument; it'll go wrong if it's mishandled. | Our company lost an important order because the directors mishandled the negotiations.

mis-hap /ˈmɪʃæp/ *n* [C;U] something that goes wrong; an often slight accident: The long journey passed without mishap.

mis-hear /ˈmɪsˈhiə/ *v* -heard /ˈhɜ:d/ *v* [I;T] to hear (someone or something) wrongly or mistakenly

Mish-i-ma /ˈmɪʃɪmə/, **Yu-ki-o** /ˈju:kiəʊ/ (1925–70) a Japanese writer who wrote about modern Japan and wanted to return to older, more traditional Japanese values. His best-known works include *Confessions of a Mask* and *The Sea of Fertility*. He killed himself after an unsuccessful military COUP by his private army.

mish-mash /ˈmɪʃməʃ/ *n* [S (of)] *infml* an untidy disorderly mixture; HOTCHPOTCH: This new book is an odd mish-mash of ideas.

Mish-nah /ˈmɪʃnə/ [the] a collection of Jewish TRADITIONS that form the Jewish law, on which the Talmud is based

mis-in-form /ˈmɪsɪnˈfɔ:m/ *v* [T (about) often pass.] to give (someone) wrong information: I'm sorry, I thought they had already been sent; I must have been misinformed.

mis-in-for-ma-tion /ˈmɪsɪnfəˈmeɪʃən/ *n* [U] often *euph* wrong information, *esp. given on purpose*: government propaganda and "misinformation"

mis-in-ter-pret /ˈmɪsɪnˈtɜ:prɪt/ *v* [T] to put a wrong meaning on (something said, done, etc.); explain or understood wrongly: The driver misinterpreted the policeman's signal and turned in the wrong direction. — *~ation* /ˈmɪsɪntɜ:prɪˈteɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]: a misinterpretation of the results of the experiment

mis-judge /ˈmɪsˈdʒʌdʒ/ *v* [T] to judge (a person, action, time, distance, etc.) wrongly; form a wrong or unfairly bad opinion of: What a very kind thing to do; I've clearly been misjudging him all these years. | The government misjudged the mood of the country when it decided to call an election. — **judgment, judgement n** [C;U] (of)]

Mis-ki-to /ˈmɪsˈki:təʊ/ *n* **1** [C] (a member of) a people of Nicaragua or Honduras **2** [U] the language of these people

mis-lay /ˈmɪsˈleɪ/ *v* -laid /ˈleɪd/ [T] to put (something) in a place and forget where; lose for a short time: Oh dear, I've mislaid my glasses again.

mis-lead /ˈmɪsˈli:d/ *v* -led /ˈled/ [T (into)] to cause (someone)

to think or act mistakenly; guide wrongly: *The car's shiny appearance misled me into thinking it was newer than it really was.* | *a misleading description/advertisement* — ~ingly adv

mis-man-age /ˌmɪsˈmænɪdʒ/ v [T] to control or deal with (private, public, or business affairs) badly, unskilfully, etc.: *It's not surprising the company's in debt — it's been completely mismanaged.* — ~ment n [U (of)]

mis-match /ˌmɪsˈmætʃ/ v [T often pass.] to match wrongly or unsuitably, esp. in marriage: *a mismatched couple* — **mismatch** /ˈmɪs-mætʃ/ n

mis-no-mer /ˌmɪsˈnəʊmə/ n a wrong or unsuitable name: *To call it a hotel is a misnomer — it's more like a prison!*

mi-so /ˈmɪːsəʊ/ n [U] a strong-tasting salty Japanese food made from fermented (FERMENT¹ (1)) rice or SOYA BEANS and used to add taste to soups, etc.

mi-so-gy-nist /mɪˈsɒdʒɪnɪst||mɪˈsɑː-/ n a person who hates women —compare MISANTHROPE

mi-so-gy-ny /mɪˈsɒdʒɪni||mɪˈsɑː-/ n [U] fml hatred of women

mis-place /ˌmɪsˈpleɪs/ v [T often pass.] 1 to have (good feelings) for an undeserving person or thing: *Your trust in him is misplaced; he'll cheat you if he can.* 2 to MISLAY: *I've misplaced my glasses again.* 3 to put in an unsuitable or wrong place: *She's misplaced in that job; she ought to be doing something more creative.* — ~ment n [U (of)]

mis-print /ˈmɪs-prɪnt/ n a mistake in printing — **misprint** /ˌmɪsˈprɪnt/ v [T]

mis-pro-nounce /ˌmɪsprəˈnaʊns/ v to pronounce (a word) in a way that is usu. understood, but not correct: *People always mispronounce my last name.*

mis-quote /ˌmɪsˈkwəʊt/ v [T] to make a mistake in reporting (a person, or a person's words): *The minister complained that the newspapers had misquoted him/his speech.* — **quotation** /ˌmɪskwəʊˈteɪʃən/ n [C;U]

mis-read /ˌmɪsˈrɪd/ v **-read** /ˈred/ [T] 1 to read (something) wrongly: *The letter was dated May 17th but I misread it as the 11th.* 2 to make a wrong judgment about: *The general misread the enemy's intentions, and didn't anticipate the attack.*

mis-re-port /ˌmɪsrɪˈpɔːt||-ˈpɔːrt/ v [T often pass.] to give an incorrect or untrue account of: *The story in the newspaper isn't true; the facts have been misrepresented.*

mis-rep-re-sent /ˌmɪsreprɪˈzent/ v [T (as)] to give an intentionally untrue account or explanation of (someone, or someone's words or actions), esp. an unfavourable one: *The newspapers misrepresented him as a political extremist.* — ~ation /ˌmɪsreprɪzenˈteɪʃən/ n [C;U (of)] : a gross misrepresentation of the truth

mis-rule /ˌmɪsˈruːl/ n [U] 1 bad government 2 esp. lit disorder; confusion

Misrule, Lord of also **King of Misrule**, **Abbot of Misrule**— [the] formerly an officer at the court of the English king or queen who watched over the Christmas games and fun. At the Scottish court he was called the **Abbot of Unreason**.

miss¹ /mɪs/ v 1 [I;T] to fail to hit, catch, find, meet, touch, hear, see, etc.: *He shot at it, but missed.* | *The falling rock just missed my head.* | *I arrived too late and missed the train.* | *She went to the station to meet her husband, but missed (=failed to meet) him in the crowd.* | *We arrived late at the theatre, and missed (=failed to see) the first act of the play.* | *He's missed (=failed to go to) school three days this week.* | *I think you've missed (=failed to understand) the point.* | *an opportunity that is too good to miss* | Yes, he's very observant; he doesn't miss much. [+v-ing] *I don't want to miss seeing that film on television tonight.* 2 [T] to avoid or escape from (something unpleasant): *The two planes missed disaster by a matter of inches when they nearly collided.* | [+v-ing] *We narrowly missed being killed by the explosion.* 3 [T] to feel sorry or unhappy at the absence or loss of: *Her children have gone to Australia, and she misses them very much.* | *It's a rather ugly building; I don't think it would be missed.* [+v-ing] *I miss living in the country.* (=I wish I still lived there) 4 [T] to discover the absence or loss of: *I didn't miss the key until I got home and found it wasn't in my bag.* 5 **miss the boat/the bus** infml to lose a good chance, esp. by being too slow 6 **miss the/one's mark** to fail to reach the/one's intended result: *a joke that somewhat missed*

the mark (=failed to amuse anyone) —see also MISSING, HIT-OR-MISS

miss out phr v 1 [T] (**miss** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out**) BrE to fail to include: *His account of the accident misses out one or two important facts.* | *When the waiter was pouring wine for everyone, he for some reason missed me out.* 2 [I (on)] to lose a chance to gain advantage or enjoyment: *You really missed out (on a lot of fun) by not coming to the office party.*

miss² n 1 a failure to hit, catch, hold, etc., whatever is aimed at —see also NEAR MISS 2 a **miss is as good as a mile**: a a narrow escape from danger, defeat, etc., has the same result as an easy one b the smallest failure or mistake has the same result as a large one: *"I failed the exam by only 2%."* "A miss is as good as a mile." 3 **give something a miss** infml not to do, take, etc., something: *I usually go swimming on Mondays, but I've decided to give it a miss this week.*

miss³ n (usu. cap.) 1 a title placed a before the name of an unmarried woman or girl: *Miss Brown* | (old-fash) *The Misses Brown are sisters.* —compare MRS (1), MS b before the name of a place or activity which a young woman has been chosen to represent, usu. because she is beautiful: *Miss Brazil was voted Miss World 1986.* 2 a respectful form of address used a esp. BrE by pupils to a woman teacher: *Can we go now, Miss?* b rather old-fash by anyone to a young woman: *Excuse me, miss, is that your umbrella?* —compare MADAM (1), SIR (1) 3 BrE often humor or derog, rather old-fash a girl or young woman, esp. one who is playful or disrespectful

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the US the title **Miss** is becoming rare in all senses except 1b above, unless it is referring (REFER) to very young girls. **Ms** is preferred for females from older TEENAGERS upwards. ◀

mis-sal /ˈmɪsəl/ n (often cap.) a book containing the complete religious service during the year for MASS in the Roman Catholic church

Miss A-mer-i-ca Pa-geant /ˌmɪs ˈæmərɪkə ˈpeɪdʒənt/ [the] a BEAUTY CONTEST held every year in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in which women who have won other competitions represent each of the 50 states. One of them is chosen to serve as **Miss America** for one year.

mis-shap-en /ˌmɪsˈʃeɪpən, mɪˈʃeɪ-/ adj (esp. of the body or a part of it) not of the usual or ordinary shape: *misshapen toes*

mis-sile /ˈmɪsaɪl||ˈmɪsəl/ n 1 an explosive flying weapon with its own engine, which can be aimed at a distant object: *a nuclear missile* | *a missile base* —see also GUIDED MISSILE, ICBM 2 fml an object thrown as a weapon: *The angry football fans threw bottles and other missiles at each other.*

miss-ing /ˈmɪsɪŋ/ adj 1 that cannot be found; not in the proper or expected place; lost: *Some important figures are missing from this report.* | *He has a finger missing from his left hand.* 2 [F] (of a soldier, fighting vehicle, etc.) not returning after a battle, and therefore considered killed, destroyed, etc.: *Seven of our planes are missing.* | *He was reported missing in action.* —see also MIA

missing link /ˌmɪsɪŋ ˈlɪŋk/ n 1 [C] a fact that must be found in order to complete an argument, a proof, etc. 2 [the] often humor an animal halfway in the development of humans from monkey-like creatures, supposed to have existed long ago but never proved to have done so: *I've just met my new brother-in-law and I think he's the missing link.*

missing per-son /ˌmɪsɪŋ ˈpɜːsn/ n a person who has been reported lost to the police: *Hundreds of missing persons are reported to the police every week.* | *the Missing Persons Bureau*

mis-sion /ˈmɪʃən/ n 1 the usu. military duty or purpose for which people are sent somewhere: *A party of soldiers was landed secretly on the coast; their mission was to blow up the radio station.* | *a bombing mission* | *The astronauts reported the breakdown to mission control.* (=the people controlling the space flight) | *Mission accomplished!* (=I have done what I was sent to do.) 2 the particular work which one believes it is one's duty to do: [+to-v] *She felt that her mission in life was to help old people.* 3 [+sing./pl. v] a group of people sent abroad for a special reason, esp. to act for their country: *The British trade mission has just reached Leningrad.* 4 a place run by a religious organization where medical services, teaching, etc. are provided for the local people: *They come to the*

mission from many miles around to see the doctor. **5 mission of mercy** an activity in which people are sent to help people in great need: *They went on a mission of mercy to feed starving children in Ethiopia.*

mis-sion-a-ry /'mɪʃənəri||-neri/ *n* a person who is sent, usu. to a foreign country, to teach and spread religion, usu. the Christian religion: *She spent twenty years in East Africa as a missionary.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The STEREOTYPE of a missionary is of a white man wearing SHORTS and a PITH HELMET, working in usu. an African country. In CARTOONS missionaries are often shown being cooked in a large pot by CANNIBALS. The missionaries usu. seem to be cheerful and not to realize what is happening. In former times missionaries were often explorers, in some cases the first Europeans that people in many parts of the world had ever seen, and they were admired for their goodness and their bravery. Now many people question whether they were right to try to make people reject their own beliefs and accept a new religion. ◀

missionary po-si-tion /'.... .-./ [*the*] the sexual position in which the woman lies on her back with the man above and facing her (supposed to have been taught to PRIMITIVE peoples) by missionaries, who said it was the only correct position.

missionary zeal /'.... .-./ *n* [U] an eagerness to do something one believes to be important; from the idea that missionaries work very hard to persuade people to believe in Christianity: *He worked with missionary zeal on the project to clean up the river.*

Mission Im-pos-si-ble /'... .-./ an American television programme of the 1960s and 1970s about a group of people who did secret work for their government. The programme always began with the words "Your mission, should you decide to accept it ..." on a TAPE which destroyed itself after it had been played.

mis-sis /'mɪsɪz/ *n* MISSUS

Mis-sis-sip-pi /'mɪsɪ'sɪpi-/ (*written abbrev. MS*) **1** a state in the S of the US, an industrial area formerly producing COTTON, and a centre of the CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT; —see also DEEP SOUTH **2** [*the*] the longest river in the US, flowing from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico, about 3779 km long —see colour map on pages 1374–5

mis-sive /'mɪsɪv/ *n* humor or pomp a letter, esp. a long one

Mis-sou-ri /mɪ'suəri || -'zuəri/ (*written abbrev. MO*) **1** a state in the central US, an industrial and AGRICULTURAL area; **2** [*the*] a long river in the US, flowing from the Rocky Mountains to join the Mississippi —see colour map on pages 1374–5

mis-spell /'mɪs'spel/ *v* -spelt /'spelt-/ or -spelled [T] to spell wrongly — ~ing *n* [C;U]

mis-spend /'mɪs'spend/ *v* -spent /'spent-/ [T] to spend (time, money, etc.) wrongly or unwisely; waste: *his misspent youth*

Miss Pig-gy /'... .-./ a PUPPET in the form of a pig from a television show *The Muppets* who thinks she is very beautiful and who is always trying to get her own way —see picture at KERMIT

mis-state /'mɪs'steɪt/ *v* [T] to state (a fact, argument, etc.) wrongly or falsely, esp. in order to deceive — ~ment *n* [C;U] : *several misstatements about the cost of the new aircraft*

mis-sus, missis /'mɪsɪz/ *n* infml or humor, rather old-fash (with **the, his, your**, etc.) a person's wife: *The missus will be angry if I'm home late.* | *How's your missus?*

Miss World /'... .-./ *n* [C;U] (the winner of) an international beauty competition

miss-y /'mɪsi/ *n* infml, now rare (used as a friendly way of addressing a young girl)

mist ¹ /mɪst/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an area of) cloudy air near the ground, made up of very small floating drops of water; thin FOG: *The mountain top was covered in mist.* | (fig.) *a secret hidden in the mists of the past/lost in the mists of time* (=a time so long ago that it had been forgotten) —see also SCOTCH MIST **2** [S;U] a thin covering of small drops of water, through which it is hard to see: *She could hardly recognize her son through the mist of tears that filled her eyes.* —see also MISTY

mist ² *v* [I;T (OVER, UP)] to (cause to) become covered with mist: *Their breath misted up the windows.* | *Her eyes misted over.* —see also DEMIST

mis-take ¹ /mɪ'steɪk/ *v* -took /mɪ'stuk/, -taken /mɪ'steɪkən/ [T] **1** to have a wrong idea about; MISUNDERSTAND: *He'd mistaken the address, and gone to the wrong house.* | *She mistook my meaning entirely.* **2** to fail to recognize: *You can't mistake his car; he's painted it bright red and yellow.* | **There's no mistaking his car.** (=it is always recognizable) —see also UNMISTAKABLE

mistake sbdy./sthg. for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to think wrongly that (a person or thing) is (someone or something else): *They mistook him for his brother.* | *Don't mistake his silence for lack of interest.*

mistake ² *n* [C;U] something done wrongly, or something that should not have been done: *You've made several spelling mistakes.* | *It was a mistake to tell him.* | *She put salt into her tea by mistake.* | *There must be some mistake in this bill; could you add it up again?* | (BrE) *He's an odd character and no mistake!* (=he's certainly very odd) | *If we don't finish the job today they won't pay us; make no mistake about it.* (=you can be quite certain) —see ERROR (USAGE)

mis-tak-en /mɪ'steɪkən/ *adj* **1** [F (about)] (of a person) wrong; having understood incorrectly: *I think you must be mistaken about seeing him at the theatre; I'm sure he's been abroad all week.* | **Unless I'm (very much) mistaken, that's my watch you're wearing!** **2** (of an action, idea, etc.) incorrect; not properly formed or understood: *I was under the mistaken impression that they were French.* | *The police arrested her, but it turned out to be a case of mistaken identity.* (=they thought she was someone else) — ~ly *adv*

mis-ter /'mɪstə/ *n* **1** esp. AmE infml (used for addressing a man unknown to the speaker): "What's the time, mister?", asked the little boy. **2** (cap.) MR

mis-time /'mɪs'taɪm/ *v* [T] to do or say at a wrong time: *With the election only three days away, the government badly mistimed its announcement of tax increases.*

mis-tle-toe /'mɪsəltəʊ/ *n* [U] a plant with small white berries that grows and feeds on trees

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In British MYTHOLOGY mistletoe is connected with the DRUIDS who regarded it as a SACRED plant. Mistletoe is often hung in rooms at Christmas because there is a TRADITION that one may kiss anyone of the opposite sex who is under it. ◀

mis-took /mɪ'stuk/ *past tense of MISTAKE*

mis-tral /'mɪstrɑ:l/ *n* [*the*] a strong cold dry wind that blows from the north into southern France

mis-tress /'mɪstrɪs/ *n* **1** a woman who is in control: *She felt she was no longer mistress in her own house when her husband's mother came to stay.* | *The dog ran alongside his mistress.* **2** often derog a woman with whom a man has a sexual relationship, usu. not a socially acceptable one: *His wife left him when she discovered he had a mistress.* **3** poet a woman loved by a man: *He addressed many poems to his mistress, praising her beauty.* **4** esp. BrE a female teacher: *the new English mistress* —compare MASTER ¹ (2)

Mistress *n* old use (a title for any woman or girl): *Mistress Quickly is a character in Shakespeare's plays.*

mis-tri-al /'mɪs'traɪəl/ *n* law a trial during which some mistake in law is made, so that judgments made in it have no legal effect and a new trial has to be held: *The High Court declared it a mistrial.*

mis-trust /mɪs'trast/ *v* [T] not to trust: *Why do you mistrust him so much? He seems honest enough to me.* — **mistrust** *n* [S;U (of)] : *He keeps his money at home because he has a great mistrust of banks.* — ~ful *adj* [(of)] — ~fully *adv* — ~fulness *n* [U]

mist-y /'mɪsti/ *adj* full of, covered with, or hidden by MIST: *a misty morning* | (fig.) *misty memories of her childhood* —ily *adv* —iness *n* [U]

mis-un-der-stand /'mɪsʌndə'stænd||-ər-/ *v* -stood /'stud/ [I;T] to understand wrongly; put a wrong meaning on: *He misunderstood what I said.* | *They pretended to misunderstand me/my complaint.*

mis-un-der-standing /'mɪsʌndə'stændɪŋ||-ər-/ *n* **1** [C;U (of)] (an example of) the act of putting a wrong meaning (on something): *I think there's been some misunderstanding: I meant nine in the morning, not nine at night.* **2** [C (with)] often euph a disagreement less serious than a quarrel: *a little misunderstanding with our neighbours*

mis-use¹ /ˌmɪsˈjuːz/ *v* [T] **1** to use (something) in a wrong way or for a wrong purpose: *I hate to see him misusing his time like that.* **2** *fml* to treat (something or someone) badly

▷ **USAGE:** Compare **abuse** and **misuse**. **Misuse** is often used about objects: *to misuse a tool*. **Abuse** is rarely used about objects, but when it is used in this way it is stronger than **misuse**, and suggests that there is damage: *You must have been abusing the knife I lent you – the blade is completely ruined.* ◀

mis-use² /ˌmɪsˈjuːz/ *n* [C;U (of)] (an example of) bad, wrong, or unsuitable use: *(an) unforgivable misuse of power*

MIT /ˌem aɪ ˈtiː/ *abbrev. for:* Massachusetts Institute of Technology; a university in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the US, famous for scientific education and study

Mitch-ell¹ /ˈmɪtʃəl/, **Jo-ni** /ˈdʒəʊni/ (1943–) a Canadian popular music singer, songwriter, and GUITAR player, best known for her FOLK songs in the 1960s

Mitchell², **Margaret** (1900–49) an American writer whose one NOVEL *Gone with the Wind* was very successful, as was the film based on it – see also GONE WITH THE WIND

Mitchell³, **Warren** (1926–) an English actor known esp. for playing the part of Alf Garnett in television's *Till Death Us Do Part*

Mitch-um /ˈmɪtʃəm/, **Rob-ert** /ˈrɒbət ˈrɑːbərt/ (1917–) an American film actor, who played leading parts in many films, esp. WESTERNS and films about criminals, from the 1940s onwards. Among his best-known films are *The Sun-downers*, *Ryan's Daughter*, and *The Big Sleep*.

mite /maɪt/ *n* **1** [C] a very small insect-like creature **2** [C] *BrE* a small child, esp. one for whom one feels sorry: *The poor little mite!* **3** [S] *infml* a very small amount: *I couldn't eat a mite more.* **4** a *mite* *infml* often humor slightly: *I think he was a mite annoyed.*

Mit-ford /ˈmɪtfəd ˌfɔːrd/, **Nan-cy** /ˈnænsi/ (1904–73) an English writer who wrote about the ARISTOCRACY. Her best known NOVELS include *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*.

Mith-ras /ˈmɪθræs/ also **Mith-ra** /-rə/ – the god of light or the sun in an ancient Persian religion (**Mithraism**) who was worshipped esp. by Roman soldiers

mit-i-gate /ˈmɪtɪgeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to lessen the seriousness of (evil, harm, pain, etc.): *The judge said that nothing could mitigate the cruelty with which the mother had treated her child.* | *new economic measures to help mitigate the effects of the recession* | *Are there any mitigating circumstances in this case?* (=facts that make a crime less serious) – see also UNMITIGATED – **gation** /ˈmɪtɪˈgeɪʃən/ *n* [(in) U (of)]

mi-to-sis /maɪ ˈtəʊsɪs/ *n* [U] *tech* cell division in which one cell produces two that are exactly the same – compare MEIOSIS

mi-tre *BrE* || **miter** *AmE* /ˈmaɪtə/ *n* **1** a tall pointed hat worn by BISHOPS and ARCHBISHOPS (=priests of high rank) **2** also **mitre joint** /ˈmɪtə ˌdʒɔɪnt/ a joint between two pieces of wood, in which each piece is cut at an angle as in the corners of a picture frame

Mit-su-bish-i /ˌmɪtsuːˈbɪʃi/ *tdmk* a car or other motor vehicle made by the Japanese company Mitsubishi

mitt /mɪt/ *n* **1** (*usu. in comb.*) a special type of mitten for protecting the hands: *an oven mitt* | *a catcher's mitt* (=used in BASEBALL) – see picture at GLOVE **2** *sl, often humor* a hand: *Those are my cigarettes; get your mitts off them!* (=don't take them)

mit-ten /ˈmɪtn/ *n* **1** a GLOVE with two parts, one for the thumb and the other for the fingers **2** a covering for the wrist and hand with holes for the fingers – see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at GLOVE

Mit-ter-rand /ˈmɪtərɒŋ ˌmɪtəˈrɑːn/, **Fran-çois** /ˈfrɒnswɑː ˌfrɑːnˈswɑː/ (1916–) a French Socialist leader who became President of France in 1981

Mit-ty /ˈmɪti/, **Wal-ter** /ˈwɔːltə/ a person who imagines that they are leading a different life in which they are an important or brave person; a DAYDREAMER (from the HERO of a story by James Thurber)

mix¹ /mɪks/ *v* **1** [I;T (UP, with)] to combine so that the parts no longer have a separate shape, appearance, etc., or cannot easily be separated: *Oil and water don't mix.* | *Oil doesn't mix with water.* | *You can't mix oil and water.* |

You can mix blue and yellow paint to make green. | *She put the butter and sugar into a bowl and mixed them up together.* | *to mix business with pleasure* **2** [T (for)] to make by combining substances: *to mix a cocktail* | *She mixed a hot drink for him.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *His wife mixed him a hot drink.* **3** [I (with)] (of a person) to be, or enjoy being, in the company of others: *She mixes well (with other children).* | *He's mixing with the wrong people.* **4** [T] *tech* to control the balance of (sounds in a record, film, etc.) **5** *mix it* *infml, esp. BrE* to fight or behave in a rough threatening way

▷ **USAGE** Compare **mix**, **blend**, **mingle**, **merge**, and **combine**. **Mix** in meaning 1 above is the most general word to use about substances: *to mix butter, eggs, and flour.* **Blend** is often used about the action of mixing in careful proportions to produce a particular taste, smell, or other good result: *to blend spices* | *blended whisky.* **Mingle** is usually intransitive and is used a of people: *I mingled with the crowd* b of flowing liquids of different origin, colour, temperature, etc.: *The fresh water of the Amazon mingles with the salt water of the South Atlantic.* **Merge** is intransitive and is used when one thing becomes lost in another, or two things become one: *an insect that merges with its surroundings* | *the place where two roads merge.* When two or more things **combine**, they join or stick to each other, but keep their own identities, and may be separated again under suitable conditions: *Hydrogen combines with oxygen to form water.* ◀

mix sthg. ↔ *in phr v* [T] to combine (a substance) thoroughly with other substances: *Add the milk to the flour, and then mix in three eggs.*

mix sbdy./sthg. ↔ *up phr v* [T] **1** [(with)] to mistakenly think that (someone or something) is another rather similar person or thing: *It's easy to mix him up with his brother; they're so alike.* **2** to put into disorder: *If you mix up those papers we won't be able to find the one we need quickly enough.* – see also MIXED UP, MIX-UP

mix² *n* **1** [C;U] (*usu. in comb.*) a combination of all or most of the substances needed to make the stated thing: *cake mix* **2** [S (of)] a group of different things, people, etc.; mixture: *There was a strange mix of people at the party.* | *It's a question of getting the right mix of policies to appeal to the electorate.*

mixed /mɪkst/ *adj* **1** of different kinds: *He has mixed feelings about his daughter's marriage.* (=he likes it in some ways but not in others) **2** [*no comp.*] of or for both sexes: *a mixed school* | *mixed bathing* | *This joke isn't suitable to be told in mixed company.* (=isn't suitable for women to hear)

mixed-a-bil-ity /ˌmɪksədɪˈbɪləti/ *adj* [A] containing pupils of many different levels of ability: *a mixed-ability school/class*

mixed bag /ˌmɪksd ˌbæg/ *n* [S] *infml* a collection of things of many different kinds, and *usu.* of different qualities: *The reviews the play got were a pretty mixed bag.* (=some were good, but many were bad too)

mixed bles-sing /ˌmɪksd ˌblesɪŋ/ *n* [S] something that is bad as well as good: *Getting that well-paid job was a bit of a mixed blessing; it means we'll have to live abroad for several years.*

mixed doub-les /ˌmɪksd ˌdʌblz/ *n* **mixed doubles** a match, esp. of tennis, in which a man and a woman play against another man and woman

mixed e-con-o-my /ˌmɪksd ˌiːkənəˈmi/ *n* the operation of a country's money supply, industry, and trade by a mixture of CAPITALIST and SOCIALIST principles

mixed farm-ing /ˌmɪksd ˌfɑːmɪŋ/ *n* [U] the raising of farm animals and the growing of crops on the same farm

mixed grill /ˌmɪksd ˌɡrɪl/ *n* a dish of various kinds of meat grilled (GRILL¹) together, usually including STEAK, LIVER, SAUSAGES, etc.

mixed herbs /ˌmɪksd ˌhɜːbz/ *n* [P] a mixture of various kinds of dried HERB, sold ready mixed and used in cooking

mixed mar-riage /ˌmɪksd ˌmɑːrɪdʒ/ *n* a marriage between people of different races or religion

mixed met-a-phor /ˌmɪksd ˌmetəˈfɔːr/ *n* a use of two different METAPHORS together with a foolish or funny effect: *"She is a tower of strength and is galloping ahead" is a mixed metaphor.*

mixed spice /ˌmɪksd ˌspiːs/ *n* [U] a mixture of various kinds of SPICE, sold ready mixed and used esp. in making cakes

mixed up /ˌmɪksəd/ *adj* **1** [F+in] connected with (something bad): *I didn't realize he was mixed up in that banking scandal.* | *Don't get mixed up in other people's quarrels.* **2** [F+with] connected with (someone undesirable): *Since we came to live on this housing estate he's been getting mixed up with a very rough crowd of boys.* **3** troubled and confused in one's mind: *He listened to so much conflicting advice that he got all mixed up.* | *a completely mixed-up kid* —see also **MIX up**, **MIX-UP**

mix-er /ˈmɪksə/ *n* **1** (often in comb.) a machine by or in which substances are mixed: *a food mixer* | *a cement mixer* —see picture at **KITCHEN** **2** a non-alcoholic drink for mixing with an alcoholic drink, esp. a **SPIRIT**: *We've got tonic water or bitter lemon as mixers.* **3** tech a person who balances and controls the words, music, and sounds for a film **4** *AmE* (an organized activity at) a party whose purpose is to let people who have just met each other get to know each other better: *There's a mixer for new transfer students on Friday night.* **5** **good/bad mixer** a person who is happy/not happy in the company of people, likes/does not like talking to them, etc.: *a bad mixer who never talks to people at parties*

mixing bowl /ˈmɪksɪŋ bɒl/ *n* an esp. large bowl used in cookery for mixing materials, esp. for cakes

mix-ture /ˈmɪkstʃə/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a set of substances mixed together so as to give a combined effect: *This tobacco is a mixture of three different sorts.* —compare **COMPOUND** **1** (1) **2** [S (of)] a combination of things or people of different types: *I listened to his excuse with a mixture of amusement and disbelief.* **3** [U] a usu. liquid substance made for the stated purpose by combining other substances: *a bottle of cough mixture* (=medicine for stopping coughs) **4** [U] *fml* the action of mixing or state of being mixed **5** *BrE* the mixture as before *infml*, usu. derog the same treatment or set of actions as before: *We were hoping for something original in this new film but it's the mixture as before.*

mix-up /ˈmɪks ʌp/ *n* *infml* a state of disorder and confusion, as caused by bad planning, etc.: *There was a mix-up at the station and some of us got on the wrong train.* —see also **MIXED UP**, **MIX up**

Mk written abbrev. for: **MARK** ¹ (7, 8)

ml written abbrev. for: **MILLILITRE(S)**

MLitt /ˌem ˈlɪt/ *abbrev. for:* Master of Letters; (a title for someone who has) a British university degree at a level higher than a BA but below a PHD: *Ms Poppy Catte, MLitt* | *She has an MLitt.*

MLR /ˌem el ˈɑːr/ *abbrev. for:* **MINIMUM LENDING RATE**

M'lud /məˈlʌd/ the title used to address a judge in a British court of law (from “My Lord”)

mm written abbrev. for: **MILLIMETRE(S)**

MN written abbrev. for: **MINNESOTA**

M'Nagh-ten Rules /mækˈnɑːtən ˈruːlz/ see **MCNAUGHTEN RULES**

mne-mon-ic /nɪˈmɒnɪk||nɪˈmɑː-/ *adj*, *n* (something, esp. a few lines of **VERSE**) used for helping one to remember: *The spelling guide “i before e except after c” is a mnemonic.* — ~ally /kli/ *adv*

mo /məʊ/ *n* [S] *BrE infml* a very short space of time; **MO-MENT**: *Wait a mo.*

MO ¹ /ˌem ˈəʊ/ *n* **MOs** *infml* **1** esp. *BrE* medical officer; an army doctor **2** a **MODUS OPERANDI**

MO ² written abbrev. for: **Missouri**

moan ¹ /məʊn/ *n* **1** a soft low sound of pain or grief: *From time to time there was a moan (of pain) from the sick man.* | (fig.) *the moan of the wind through the trees* **2** *infml*, usu. derog a complaint, expressed in a suffering discontented voice: *She's never satisfied; she's always got some moan or another.*

moan ² *v* **1** [I] to make the sound of a moan: *The sick child moaned a little, and then fell asleep.* | (fig.) *The wind moaned round the house all night.* **2** [I (about); T] to complain annoyingly, esp. in a discontented voice without good reason: *Stop moaning; you've really got nothing to complain about.* | “I'm hungry,” he moaned. [+that] *She's always moaning that she has too much work to do.* — ~er *n*

Moaning Min-nie, **moaning Minnie** /ˌməʊnɪŋ ˈmɪni/ *n* **1** someone who is always complaining: *She's a real moaning Minnie.* **2** a German weapon used in the Second World War, which made a screaming (**SCREAM**) noise

when fired **3** the **AIR RAID** warning **SIREN** used in Britain during the Second World War

moat /məʊt/ *n* a long deep hole, usually filled with water, dug a for defence round a castle, fort, etc., in former times **b** round an area for animals in a modern zoo, to stop them escaping —see picture at **CASTLE** — ~ed *adj*: *lions in a moated enclosure*

mob ¹ /mɒb||mɑːb/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** often derog a large noisy crowd, esp. one which is violent: *An angry mob is attacking the palace.* | *mob violence/rule* **2** usu. derog a group of the stated sort of people: *the usual mob of free-loaders and hangers-on that attend first nights* **3** (often cap.) a powerful organization of criminals, esp. the **MAFIA**: *He told the police, and now the Mob's after him.*

mob ² *v* -bb- [T] (of a group of people) to crowd around (someone) either because of interest or admiration, or in order to attack them: *The visiting pop star was mobbed by his excited fans.* | *The angry crowd mobbed the losing team as it left the football ground.*

Mo-bil /ˈməʊbəl/ also **Mobil Oil Company**— an international oil company which has petrol stations in many countries

mo-bile ¹ /ˈməʊbaɪl||-bəɪl, -biːl/ *adj* **1** able to move, or be moved, quickly and easily; not fixed in one position: *a mobile rocket-launcher* | *an actor with a very mobile face* (=able to change its expression a lot) | *She's much more mobile now she has a car.* | *I have a mobile telephone that I can take to the garden.* **2** [no comp.] contained, and driven from place to place, in a vehicle: *a mobile first aid room* —see also **IMMOBILE**, **UPWARDLY-MOBILE**

mo-bile ² /ˈməʊbaɪl||-biːl/ *n* a decoration or work of art made of small models, cards, etc., tied to wires or string and hung up so that it is moved by currents of air

mobile home /ˌmɒbəl ˈhəʊm/ also **trailer house** *AmE*— *n* **1** a kind of large **CARAVAN** in which people live all the time. Mobile homes have very small wheels and are rarely moved from their usual place which is usu. in a special area with other mobile homes, called a **mobile home park**. **2** a vehicle which is lived in as a home and has its own engine —compare **MOTOR HOME** —see colour picture on page 161

mobile li-bra-ry /ˌmɒbəl ˈbraɪəri/ *BrE* || **bookmobile** *AmE*— *n* a library that is kept, and driven from place to place, in a vehicle

mobile tel-e-phon /ˌmɒbəl ˈtelɪfəʊn/ also **mobile phone** /ˌmɒbəl ˈfəʊn/ || usu. **carphone** *AmE*— *n* a telephone which one can carry with one

mo-bil-i-ty /məʊˈbɪlɪti/ *n* [U] *fml* the quality of being mobile: *job/labour mobility* (=the ability to move around the country to get work) | *a mobility allowance* (*BrE*) (=money from the government to help a person with a **DISABILITY** to move around) —see also **SOCIAL MOBILITY**

mo-bil-ize also -ise *BrE* /ˈməʊbɪlaɪz/ *v* **1** [T] to prepare for war or a difficult situation by organizing: *to mobilize the army in an emergency* | *He's trying to mobilize all the support/supporters he can get for his new political party.* | *to mobilize one's resources* **2** [I] (of armed forces) to gather together and become ready for war —see also **DEMobilize** —ization /ˌməʊbɪlaɪˈzeɪʃən||-lə-/ *n* [C;U]

mob-ster /ˈmɒbstə||ˈmɑːb-/ *n* a **GANGSTER**

Mo-bu-tu /məˈbuːtuː/, **Ses-e Sek-o** /ˈseser ˈsekəʊ/ (1930–) the President of Zaire who became president in 1967 after a **COUP** and established a one-party state

Mo-by Dick /ˌməʊbi ˈdɪk/ the name of the **WHALE** in the story *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville. The book tells the exciting story of a whaling captain's search for a great white whale.

moc-ca-sin /ˈmɒkəsɪn||ˈmɑː-/ *n* a simple shoe made of soft leather —see **PAIR (USAGE)**, and see picture at **SHOE**

moch-a /ˈmɒkə||ˈməʊkə/ *n* [U] (sometimes cap.) **1** a type of fine coffee **2** *AmE* a combination of coffee and chocolate, used to give a pleasant taste to food

mock ¹ /mɒk||mɑːk/ *v* **1** [I (at); T] *fml* to laugh (at), esp. unkindly or unfairly; make fun (of): *You shouldn't mock (at) other people's religious beliefs.* | *mocking laughter* **2** [T] to make fun of (something) by copying it: *He made the other boys laugh by mocking the way the teacher spoke and walked.* **3** [T] *fml* or *lit* to cause to seem completely useless: *The continuing industrial unrest mocked the*

government's attempts to find a solution. — ~er *n* — ~ingly *adv*

mock sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to make a **MOCK-UP** of

mock² *adj* [A] not real but very similar (to the real thing); pretended: *The army training exercises ended with a mock battle.* | *She opened her eyes wide in mock disbelief.* | *mock exams*

mock³ *n* 1 *BrE* a school examination taken as practice shortly before an official examination: *He's taking his mocks in January; the A level exams are in May.* 2 **make a mock of** make a mockery of 3 **make mock of** lit to laugh at; make fun of

mock- see **WORD FORMATION**

mock-ers /'mɒkəz/ || 'mɑ:kəz/ *n* **put the mockers on** *sl* to put an end to (esp. a hope, plan, etc.), ruin

mock-ery /'mɒkəri/ || 'mɑ:-/ *n* 1 [U] the act of laughing unkindly or unfairly at something, esp. to show that one thinks it foolish: *He continued with his plans to build a flying machine, in spite of the mockery of his friends.* | *the humiliation of being held up to mockery* (=made to seem foolish) *in front of all my colleagues* 2 [S] something that is not worthy of respect: *The medical examination was a mockery; the doctor hardly looked at the child.* 3 **make a mockery of** to make or show to be useless or worthless: *The violence and dishonesty of the election made a mockery of his claim to be restoring democracy.*

mock-ing-bird /'mɒkɪŋbɜ:d/ || 'mɑ:kɪŋbɜ:rd/ *n* an American bird that copies the songs of other birds

Mock Tur-tle /, . 'l- / [the] a character from Lewis Carroll's book *Alice in Wonderland*

mock tur-tle soup /, . 'l- / *n* [U] soup made from meat, but tasting as if made from **TURTLE**

mock-up /'l- / *n* a full-size model of something planned to be made or built: *a mock-up of the film set/of the space shuttle* —see also **MOCK UP**

mods



mod /mɒd/ || mɑ:d/ *n* *BrE* (often *cap.*) a member of a group of young people following a fashion for neat clothes and/or esp. **SOUL MUSIC**, popular in Britain in the 1960s. Mods usu. drove motor **SCOOTERS** and often had fights with **Rockers**, esp. in seaside towns on **Bank Holidays**. —compare **ROCKER**²

Mod *n* a Gaelic **FESTIVAL** of music and poetry held in Scotland every year

MOD /, em əv 'di:/ *abbrev. for:* **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

mo-dal¹ /'mɒdɪl/ *adj tech* 1 [A] of the **MOOD** of a verb 2 of or written in a musical **MODE** — ~ly *adv*

modal² also **modal aux-il-i-a-ry** /, . 'l- /, . 'l- /, . 'l- /, . 'l- / *n tech* any of the verb forms **can**, **could**, **may**, **might**, **shall**, **should**, **will**, **would**, **must**, **ought to**, **used to**, **need**, **had better** and **dare** —see also **AUXILIARY VERB**

mod con /, . 'l- / *n* [often *pl.*] *BrE infml* (used esp. in house advertisements) a modern convenience; something that makes living easier and more comfortable, such as central heating: *a desirable house with all mod cons*

mode¹ /mɒd/ *n* 1 [(of)] *fml* a way of behaving, living, operating, etc.: *He suddenly became wealthy, which changed his whole mode of life.* | *As the spacecraft came closer to the earth, it was put into its re-entry mode.* | *If you press this key the computer will go into its graphics mode.* (=the system of operating in which pictures are produced) 2 *tech* any of various systems of arranging

notes in music, such as **MAJOR** and **MINOR** in modern Western music

mode² *n* [the] *fml* what is fashionable: *Long skirts were then the latest mode.* —see also **A LA MODE**, **MODISH**

mod-el¹ /'mɒdl/ || 'mɑ:dl/ *n* 1 [(of)] a small representation or copy of something: *a model of the Eiffel Tower* | *a model aircraft/car* | *He made a working model of a steam engine out of old bits of metal.* 2 a person, esp. a young woman, employed to model clothes, hairstyles, **COSMETICS** etc.: *a fashion model* | *a male model* 3 a person employed to be painted by a painter or photographed by a photographer 4 something on which a copy is based: *building a new system of democracy, on the American model* (=copying the American system) | *Macho heroes in films are bad role models for children.* —compare **PATTERN**¹ 5 [(of)] *apprec* a person or thing that is a perfect example to be followed or copied: *She's a model student.* | *Her written work is a model of care and neatness.* 6 a particular type of vehicle, weapon, machine, instrument, etc., as made by a particular maker: *Volkswagen has produced two new models this year.* | *This dishwasher is the latest model.* 7 *euph, esp. BrE* (used esp. in written advertisements) a **PROSTITUTE**

model² *v* -ll- || -l- *AmE* 1 [T] **a** to shape (a soft substance) into an article: *to model clay into little horses* **b** to make a model of: *to model little horses out of clay* | *to model a ship out of bits of wood* —see also **COMPUTER MODELLING** 2 [T] to wear and show (clothes) to possible buyers: *Angela is modelling an attractive blue silk dress.* 3 [I] to work as a fashion model: *She'd like to be a film actress, but at present she's modelling.*

model sbdy./sthg. **on/upon** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to form as a copy of: *Their railway system was modelled on the French one.* | *She modelled herself on her favourite film star.* (=copied her character and behaviour)

Model T Ford /, . 'l- / *n* a model of Ford car made between 1909 and 1927, the first car to be built on an **ASSEMBLY LINE**, and sold in very large numbers. The "Tin Lizzie", as the Model T was popularly known, was cheap, and almost always painted black. Henry Ford was talking about the Model T when he said the famous phrase "You can have any colour you like, so long as it's black."

mo-dem /'mɒdəm, -dəm/ *n tech* an electronic apparatus for changing information from a form which a computer understands into a form which can be sent along a telephone line, allowing the information to be sent from one computer to another one a long way away

mod-e-rate¹ /'mɒdəreɪt/ || 'mɑ:-/ *adj* 1 not at either end of a range of size, force, etc. but perhaps nearer the lower end than the higher: *The garden is of moderate size* (=not very big). | *travelling at a moderate speed* 2 done or kept within sensible limits: *The union's demands are very moderate; they're only asking for a small wage increase.* | *a moderate smoker* 3 avoiding or not accepting ideas that are very different from those of most people; not politically extreme: *a moderate politician* | *moderate views/opinions* 4 often *euph* of average or less than average quality: *a child of only moderate ability* (=not very clever) | *moderate success*

mod-e-rate² /'mɒdəreɪt/ || 'mɑ:-/ *v* [I;T] 1 *rather fml* to make or become less in force, degree, rate, etc.; reduce: *The union decided to moderate their demands.* | *He should moderate his language when children are present.* (=shouldn't use words not fit for them to hear) | *Her fury moderated when she learned why he had done it.* —compare **MODIFY** 2 to do the work of a **MODERATOR** (1) and (4)

mod-e-rate³ /'mɒdəreɪt/ || 'mɑ:-/ *n* a person whose opinions are **MODERATE**¹ (3)

moderate breeze /, . 'l- / *n tech* wind which has a speed of 20 to 28 kilometres per hour: *Tomorrow will be sunny with a moderate breeze.*

mod-e-rate-ly /'mɒdəreɪtli/ || 'mɑ:-/ *adv* to a moderate degree; not very: *a moderately successful film*

mod-e-ra-tion /, mɒdə'reɪʃən/ || 'mɑ:-/ *n* [U] 1 the ability to keep one's feelings, desires, and habits within reasonable limits; self-control: *He showed great moderation in not responding angrily to the attacks on his character.* 2 [(in)] *fml* reduction in force, degree, rate, etc.: *Even after sunset there was little moderation in the temperature.* 3 **in moderation** within sensible limits: *Some people say that smoking in moderation isn't harmful to health.*

mod-e-ra-to /ˌmɒdəˈrætəʊ/ || ˌmɑː-/ *n*, *adj* -s (a piece of music) played at an average even speed — **moderato** *adv*

mod-e-ra-tor /ˌmɒdəreɪtə/ || ˌmɑː-/ *n* **1** a person who tries to help people to reach an agreement **2** (often *cap.*) a minister chosen to be in charge of a large meeting of the Presbyterian Church **3** *BrE* an examiner who makes sure that an examination paper arranged by someone else is fair, and also that the marks given by other examiners are of the right standard **4** a person who asks questions and keeps the marks of competing teams in a spoken game or competition

mod-ern¹ /ˌmɒdn/ || ˌmɑːdɜːn/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of the present time, or of the not far distant past; not ancient: *The modern history of Italy dates from 1860, when the country became united.* | *What do you think of modern art?* | *modern times* **2** often *apprec* typical of or developed in the most recent times; up to date: *using the most modern surgical techniques* | *bright modern colours* **3** [*no comp.*] (often *cap.*) (of a language) in use today: *Modern English/Greek/Hebrew* — compare MIDDLE, OLD; see also MODERN LANGUAGES, SECONDARY MODERN; see NEW (USAGE) — **~ity** /mɒˈdɜːnɪti/ || mɑˈdɜːr-/ *n* [U] (of)

modern² *n* [*usu. pl.*] *lit* or *old-fash* a person living in modern, as compared with ancient, times

modern art /ˌmɒdɜːn ˈɑːt/ || ˌmɑːdɜːn-/ *n* [U] a general name for (work produced by) a variety of movements in art, mainly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which produced work extremely different from what had gone before, including Impressionism, Fauvism, Cubism, and Surrealism, as well as some more recent developments such as MINIMAL ART and Photorealism

modern dance /ˌmɒdɜːn ˈdɑːns/ || ˌmɑːdɜːn-/ *n* [U] a kind of dancing developed in Europe and the US in the early 20th century, which is performed in the theatre but is different from BALLET or the dancing which forms part of MUSICALS. Modern dance typically tried to avoid using the movements of ballet and to become independent of the structure of the music which goes with the dance.

modern-day /ˌmɒdɜːn ˈdeɪ/ || ˌmɑːdɜːn-/ *adj* (typical) of the present time, esp. in the sense of being similar to something or someone from the past: *She's a modern-day Joan of Arc, always finding a cause to martyr herself for.*

mod-ern-is-m /ˌmɒdəˈnɪzəm/ || ˌmɑːdɜːr-/ *n* [U] (sometimes *cap.*) (esp. in art and religion) a search for new forms of expression representative of modern times, esp. a tendency in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s to make a complete change from the past in using simple forms, artificial materials etc. in building, art decoration, etc. — compare POST-MODERNISM — **-ist** *adj*, *n*: of the modernist school

mod-ern-ist-ic /ˌmɒdəˈnɪstɪk/ || ˌmɑːdɜːr-/ *adj* very noticeably and unusually modern: *modernistic lampshades* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

mod-ern-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˌmɒdəˈnaɪz/ || ˌmɑːdɜːr-/ *v* **1** [T] to make suitable for modern use, or for the needs of the present time: *to modernize an old house by putting in a bathroom* **2** [I] to start using more modern methods of operation: *The business will lose money if it doesn't modernize.* — **-ization** /ˌmɒdəˈnaɪzɪˈzeɪʃən/ || ˌmɑːdɜːrnə-/ *n* [C;U]

modern lan-gua-ges /ˌmɒdəˈn ˈlɒŋɡwɑːʒ/ || ˌmɑːdɜːn-/ *n* [P] the study of one or more current foreign languages in a school or university

modern maths /ˌmɒdəˈn ˈmæθ/ || ˌmɑːdɜːn-/ *n* *BrE* || **new math** *AmE* — *n* the MATHEMATICS which is currently taught in most schools in Britain and which includes such ideas as sets, SYMMETRY, and BASES (8)

mod-est /ˌmɒdɪst/ || ˌmɑː-/ *adj* **1** [(about)] *apprec* having or expressing a lower opinion of one's own ability than is probably deserved; hiding one's good qualities: *The young actress is very modest about her success; she says it's as much the result of good luck as of her own talent.* **2** not large in quantity, size, value, etc.: *a modest rise in house prices* | *They were very modest in their demands.* (=They didn't ask for too much.) | *modest ambitions* **3** *old-fash apprec* (esp. of a woman or her clothes or behaviour) avoiding or not showing anything that might excite sexual feelings: *modest dress* — see also IMMODEST — **~ly** *adv*

mod-es-ty /ˌmɒdɪsti/ || ˌmɑː-/ *n* [U] often *apprec* **1** the quality, state, or fact of being modest: *With commendable modesty, the editor has not included any of his own poems in the collection.* **2** in all modesty *euph* without wishing to seem to praise oneself too much: *I think I can say,*

in all modesty, that we'd have lost the contract if I hadn't been there.

mod-i-cum /ˌmɒdɪkəm/ || ˌmɑː-/ *n* [S (of)] *usu. in negatives and questions* a small amount, esp. of a good quality such as truth, respect, etc.: *If he had a modicum of sense, he wouldn't do such a thing.*

mod-i-fi-ca-tion /ˌmɒdɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ || ˌmɑː-/ *n* **1** [U] the act of modifying or process of being modified **2** [C (to)] a small change made in something: *A few simple modifications to this plan would greatly improve it.*

mod-i-fi-er /ˌmɒdɪfaɪə/ || ˌmɑː-/ *n* *tech* (in grammar) a word or group of words that gives additional information about another word. Modifiers can be adjectives (such as *fierce* in *the fierce dog*), adverbs (such as *loudly* in *The dog barked loudly*), or phrases (such as *with a short tail* in *the dog with a short tail*).

mod-i-fy /ˌmɒdɪfaɪ/ || ˌmɑː-/ *v* [T] **1** to change (a plan, an opinion, a condition, or the form or quality of something), esp. slightly: *to modify one's views in the light of new evidence* | *The design has been modified to improve fuel consumption.* **2** (of a word, esp. an adjective or adverb) to describe or limit the meaning of (another word): *An adverb modifies the verb "talk" in the phrase "to talk quietly".* — compare MODERATE²

Mod-i-glia-ni /ˌmɒdɪlˈdʒaɪni/ || ˌmɑːdɪɡli-/ , **Am-e-de-o** /æməˈdeɪəʊ/ (1884–1920) an Italian painter and SCULPTOR influenced by Toulouse-Lautrec, Cézanne, and Picasso. He is known esp. for his pictures of people, in which their bodies and faces are much longer than in real life.

mod-ish /ˌmɒdɪʃ/ *adj* fashionable — **~ly** *adv*

mod-u-lar /ˌmɒdjʊlə/ || ˌmɑːdʒə-/ *adj* *tech* built or made using modules: *modular furniture* | *a modular course in business studies*

mod-u-late /ˌmɒdjʊleɪt/ || ˌmɑːdʒə-/ *v* **1** [T] to vary the strength, nature, etc., of (a sound): *He has a very monotonous voice; he should modulate it more.* **2** [I+from, to] to pass by regular steps from one musical KEY to another: *Here the music modulates from E to G.* **3** [T] *tech* to vary the size or rate of (a radio wave or signal) — **-lation** /ˌmɒdjʊˈleɪʃən/ || ˌmɑːdʒə-/ *n* [C;U]

mod-ule /ˌmɒdjʊl/ || ˌmɑːdʒuːl/ *n* *tech* **1** an independent part or unit which can be combined with others to form a structure or arrangement **2** a part of a spacecraft that can be used independently of the other parts for a particular purpose: *While one of the astronauts went round the moon in the command module, the other went down to the surface in the lunar module.*

mo-dus op-e-ran-di /ˌmɒdəs ˌɒpəˈrændi/ || ˌɑːpə-/ also **MO infml** — *n* [S] *tech, Lat* a method of doing something, esp. one that is typical of a particular person: *His modus operandi is well-known to the police.*

modus vi-ven-di /ˌmɒdəs vɪˈvendi/ *n* [S] *Lat* **1** [(with)] an arrangement between people of different opinions, habits, etc., to live or work together without quarrelling: *They made a great effort to reach some kind of modus vivendi, for the sake of the children.* **2** a way of living

mog-gy /ˌmɒɡi/ || ˌmɑːɡi, ˌmɔːɡi/ also **mog** /mɒɡ/ || ˌmɑːɡ, ˌmɔːɡ/ — *n* *BrE infml, esp. humor* a cat

mo-gul /ˌmɒɡʊl/ *n* a person of very great power, wealth, and importance: *the moguls of the film industry*

mo-hair /ˌmɒheə/ *n* [U] (cloth made from) the long fine silky hair of the ANGORA goat. Mohair is more expensive than most other types of woollen cloth: *a mohair sweater*

Mo-ham-med /məʊˈhæmɪd, mə-/ see MUHAMMAD

Mo-ham-me-dan /məʊˈhæmɪdən, mə-/ *adj*, *n* (a) Muslim (considered offensive by some Muslims)

Mo-ham-me-dan-is-m /məʊˈhæmɪdənɪzəm, mə-/ *n* [U] the Muslim religion; Islam (considered offensive by some Muslims)

Mo-ha-ve /məʊˈhɑːvi/ [*the*] see MOJAVE DESERT

Mo-hawk /ˌmɒhɔːk/ *n* [C; the+P] **1** (a member of) a Native American people of the Mohawk river valley in New York state — see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE) **2** *AmE* MOHICAN

mo-hi-can /məʊˈhiːkən/ *BrE* || **mohawk** *AmE* — *n* a hairstyle in which the hair on the sides of the head is cut very short and the remaining hair is made to stand upright and is often brightly coloured. Mohicans were esp. popular among young people at the time of PUNK fashion, but are now becoming less common.

mo·ment /'məʊmənt/ *n* **1** [C] a very short period of time: *Can I speak to you for a moment?* | *It will only take a moment/a few moments.* | *I'll be ready in a moment.* (=very soon) | *Just a moment* (=wait); *I want to have a word with you.* | *I wasn't fooled for a moment.* (=at all) | *He wrote the book at odd moments.* (=short periods of free time) – see also **MOMENTARY** **2** [C] a particular point in time: *Just at that moment, the door opened and the inspector walked in.* | *It's impossible to get a decision out of David; he changes his mind from one moment to the next.* (=frequently) | *He's only just this moment left the office, Mrs. Lee.* (=he left a few seconds ago) | *I cannot give you any answer at this moment in time.* (=now) | *one of those magic moments in a love affair* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] the time for doing something: *Choose your moment carefully if you want to ask her for a pay rise.* [+to-v] *This is not the (best) moment to tell him the news.* **4** [of+U] old-fash *fml* importance: *The president will speak to the nation tonight on a matter of the greatest moment.* – see also **MOMENTOUS** **5** [C (of) *usu. sing.*] *tech* (a measure of) the turning power of a force **6** **at any moment** at an unknown time only a little after the present: *Be careful – he might come back at any moment!* **7** **at the last moment** only just in time; just before the start of an activity: *He's never late, but he often arrives at the very last moment.* **8** **at the moment** at the present time; now: *I'm busy at the moment, but I'll do it later.* **9** **for the moment** as far as the present time is concerned (although perhaps not later); for now: *For the moment we are content to watch and wait.* **10** **have one's/its moments** *infml* to have times of being important, successful, happy, etc.: *It was a dull film on the whole, though it had its moments.* **11** **the moment (that)** as soon as: *I recognized her the moment (that) I saw her.* – see also **MOMENT OF TRUTH**, **on the spur of the moment** (**SPUR**¹) **12** **the moment of truth** the moment that will show whether something is going to work or not

mo-men-tar-i-ly /'məʊməntərɪli/, 'məʊməntərɪli/ *adv* 1 for just a very short time: *He was so surprised that he was momentarily unable to speak.* 2 AmE very soon; in a moment: *We will be landing at the airport momentarily.*

mo-men-ta-ry /'məʊməntəri-teri/ *adj* lasting for a very short time: *She hesitated in momentary confusion.*

mo-men-tous /məʊ'mentəs, mə-/ *adj* of very great importance or seriousness, esp. because of possible future effects: *the momentous news that war had begun* | *a momentous decision*

mo-men-tum /məʊ'mentəm, mə-/ *n* -ta /tə/ or -tums 1 [C;U] *tech* the quantity of movement in a body, measured by multiplying its mass by its speed: *As the rock rolled down the mountainside, it gathered momentum.* (=moved faster and faster) 2 [U] the force gained by the movement or development of events: *The struggle for independence is gaining momentum every day.*

MOMI /'məʊmi/ the MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

mom-ma /'mɒmə/ 'ma:ma/ *n* AmE see MAMA¹, MUMMY¹

mom-my /'mɒmi/ 'ma:mi/ *n* AmE *infml* for MUMMY¹

Mon. *written abbrev. for:* Monday

Mon-a-co /'mɒnəkəʊ, mə'nɑ:kəʊ/ 'ma:n-/ a small country, ruled by a prince, on the Mediterranean coast between France and Italy; population 28,000 (1989). Monaco is popular with tourists and attracts many to its CASINOS in Monte Carlo. Since 1927 Monaco has been ruled by the Grimaldi family, whose members are often written about in the popular newspapers. — **Monegasque** /'mɒnɔ'gæsk/ 'ma:n-/ *n, adj*

Mon-a-ghan /'mɒnəhən/ 'ma:n-/ a COUNTY in the NE of the Republic of Ireland

Mo-na Li-sa /,məʊnə 'li:zə/-'li:zə/ [*the*] a painting by Leonardo da Vinci of a woman with a mysterious smile. It is kept in the Louvre in Paris. — see colour picture on page 1016

mon-arch /'mɒnək/ 'ma:nərk, -ɑ:rk/ *n* a ruler of a state, such as a king, queen, etc., who has a right to rule by birth, and does not have to be elected — ~ic /mə'nɑ:kɪk/ 'mə'nɑ:r-/ also ~ical *adj*: *monarchic rule*

mon-arch-is-m /'mɒnəkɪzəm/ 'ma:nər-/ *n* [U] (the principles of) monarchic government

mon-arch-ist /'mɒnəkɪst/ 'ma:nər-/ *n* a person in favour of the idea that kings, queens, etc., should rule, rather than elected leaders: *monarchist principles*

mon-ar-chy /'mɒnəki/ 'ma:nərki/ *n* 1 [U] (the system of) rule by a king or queen: *He's a staunch supporter of the monarchy.* 2 [C] a state ruled by a king or queen: *Britain is a constitutional monarchy.* — compare REPUBLIC

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Britain is a CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY. The monarch, at present Queen Elizabeth II, is the HEAD OF STATE (= the official ruler of the country) and has to agree to all new laws before they can come into force. Every year she performs the STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT, when she makes a speech which tells what the government intends to do. She appoints the Prime Minister and gives titles and other HONOURS to people who have done good things for the country. In practice she has very little power, and she may not express a political opinion in public. She cannot refuse to agree to a law which has been decided on by Parliament and she must appoint as Prime Minister the leader of the political party that has won the most Parliamentary seats. Most honours go to people chosen by the government. Her duties are mainly ceremonial. Some people think that the monarchy is old-fashioned and a waste of money, but others feel that it is a good thing to have someone to represent the country on important occasions who is not connected with any political party. ◀

mon-as-tery /'mɒnəstri/ 'ma:nəsteri/ *n* a building in which MONKS live — compare CONVENT

mo-nas-tic /mə'næstɪk/ *adj* of or like monasteries or MONKS: *a monastic community* | *He lives a life of monastic simplicity.* — ~ally /kli/ *adv*

mo-nas-ti-cis-m /mə'næstɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] the life, or way of life, of MONKS in a monastery

Mon-day /'mʌndi/ (*written abbrev. Mon.*) — *n* [C;U] the first day of the week, between Sunday and Tuesday: *He'll arrive on Monday.* | (*BrE infml* or *AmE*) *He'll arrive Monday.* | *It happened on Monday morning.* | *We do our shopping on Mondays.* | *My birthday is on a Monday this year.* | *It was in Monday's "Daily Express".* | "What's the

matter with you?" "Oh, nothing, just that Monday morning feeling/the Monday morning blues." (=I don't like returning to work after two days' holiday) — see DAY (CULTURAL NOTE)

Monday Club /'.., / [*the*] a club of right-wing British Conservative politicians who formerly met on Mondays, started in 1961

Mon-dri-an /,mɒndri'a:n/ 'mɔ:n-/ **Piet** /pi:t/ (1872–1944) a Dutch painter famous for his ABSTRACT work involving only straight lines and squares or RECTANGLES of colour

Mon-et /'mɒnei/ 'mɔ:nei/, **Claude** /klo:d/ (1840–1926) a French painter who was involved in starting Impressionism, best known for his pictures of the countryside in which he was concerned to show the effects of light — see colour picture on page 1016

mon-e-ta-ris-m /'mʌnɪtərɪzəm/ 'ma:-/ *n* [U] *tech* (in ECONOMICS) the belief that the best way of controlling the ECONOMY of a country is to control the MONEY SUPPLY — compare THATCHERISM — ~rist *n, adj*

mon-e-ta-ry /'mʌnɪtəri/ 'ma:nɪteri/ *adj* *esp. tech* of or about money: *The monetary system of some countries used to be based on gold.*

mon-ey /'mʌni/ *n* [U] 1 a means of payment, esp. in the form of metal coins or paper notes: *His father makes/earns a lot of money as a pilot.* | *The repairs will cost a lot of money.* | *If it doesn't work, the shop should give you your money back.* (=repay its price to you) | *We enjoyed the film so much that we felt we'd had our money's worth.* (=full value for the price) | "Have you got any cash?" "No, I don't usually carry much money on me." (=with me) | *Don't throw that away; I paid good money* (=spent money that should not be wasted) *for it.* | *I want him to put (some) money into* (=INVEST in) *my business.* | *The school is holding a competition to raise* (=collect) *money for a new hall.* | *We needn't take a taxi — don't throw your money about/away.* (=spend it foolishly) | (*infml*) *I've never seen anyone spend so much in one evening; he must have money to burn/he must be rolling in money!* (=be very rich) 2 wealth: *He made his money in property speculation.* | *His business collapsed, and he lost all his money.* | (*infml*) *If this old picture is really by a famous artist, we're in the money.* (=rich) | (*infml*) *She intends to marry money.* (=a rich man) 3 for 'my money *infml* in my opinion: *For my money, you were by far the best actor in the play.* 4 (the love of) money is the root of all evil saying from the Bible the desire to have a lot of money is the cause of all crimes 5 'made of money *infml* very rich: *I can't afford to buy you another car — do you think I'm made of money?* 6 money for jam/for old rope *infml esp. BrE* money obtained or earned for very little effort 7 money makes the world go round saying money is the most important thing in the world because most human activity depends on it 8 money talks *infml* money can be used by those who have it to influence others 9 put one's money where one's mouth is *infml, often humor* to support one's views with practical proof: *You say you're on the side of the workers: why don't you put your money where your mouth is and support the strike?* 10 your money or your life give me your money or I will kill you — a threat that is supposed to have been made by highwaymen (HIGHWAYMAN) — see also MAD MONEY, MONEYS, BLOOD MONEY, HUSH MONEY, PIN MONEY, POCKET MONEY, READY MONEY, a (good) run for one's money (RUN²), see the colour of someone's money (SEE¹), throw good money after bad (THROW¹) — ~ less *adj*

► **USAGE** Compare money, cash, and change. Money is the most general term. Cash usually means "money in coins or notes": "May I pay by cheque?" "I'm sorry, sir, we only take cash", but it can be used informally to mean "money in any form": *I'm a bit short of cash/money at the moment.* When talking about the money returned when you have given more than the cost of something you have bought use change: "Here you are, sir, 25 pence change." Change can also mean "money in low-value coins or notes": "Can you give me change for 50 pence? I need some 5p pieces for the coffee machine." ◀

mon-ey-bags /'mʌnɪbægz/ *n* moneybags *infml derog* a very wealthy person

mon-ey-box /'mʌnɪbɒks/-'bɒks/ *n* BrE a box for saving

money in, usu. used by children and with an opening into which coins can be put —compare PIGGYBANK

mon-ey-chang-er /'mʌni,tʃeɪndʒə/ *n* a person whose business is exchanging the money of one country for that of another

mon-eyed /'mʌnid/ *adj* [A] *fml* having a large amount of money; rich: *the moneyed classes*

money-grub-ber /'mʌni,grʌbə/ *n derog* a person who is determined to gain money, often by dishonest means —**bing** *adj*: *a money-grubbing old skinflint*

mon-ey-lend-er /'mʌni,lendə/ *n sometimes derog* a person whose business is lending money and charging interest on it, but who does not work for a bank

mon-ey-mak-er /'mʌni,meɪkə/ *n usu. apprec* a product or business that brings in a lot of money —**ing** *adj*

money mar-ket /'.., .. / *n* banks, and other financial institutions taking part in buying, selling, lending, and borrowing money, esp. foreign money, for profit

money or-der /'.., .. / *n* an official paper of a stated value which is bought from a post office, bank, etc., and sent to someone instead of money. In Britain this system is used for larger sums of money than a POSTAL ORDER.

mon-ey-s, monies /'mʌniz/ *n* [P] *law or old use* money: *The moneys held in the trust fund cannot be paid to you until you are 18.*

money spi-der /'.., .. / *n* a small red or brown SPIDER which is thought by some people to bring good luck to any person it walks on

money-spin-ner /'.., .. / *n infml, esp. BrE* something that brings in a large amount of money: *This hotel's a real money-spinner in the summer months.*

money sup-ply /'.., .. / *n* [the] all the money that exists and is being paid and spent in a country, in the form of coins, notes, and CREDIT: *a government plan to reduce the money supply*

mon-gol /'mɒŋɡəl||'mɑ:ŋ-/ *n now usu. taboo* a person suffering from DOWN'S SYNDROME

Mongol *n* a person from Mongolia

Mon-go-li-a /mɒŋ'ɡəʊliə||'mɑ:ŋ-/ a country in N central Asia, officially called the **Mongolian People's Republic**, bordered by Russia to the N and China to the S; capital Ulaanbaatar; population 2,159,000 (1989) —**lian** *n, adj*

mon-gol-is-m /'mɒŋɡəlɪzəm||'mɑ:ŋ-/ *n* [U] *now usu. taboo* for DOWN'S SYNDROME

mon-goose /'mɒŋɡu:z||'mɑ:ŋ-/ *n -gooses* a small furry Indian animal that kills snakes and rats

mon-grel /'mʌŋɡrəl||'mɑ:ŋ-, 'mʌŋ-/ *n* 1 an animal, esp. a dog, whose parents were of mixed breeds or different breeds —compare PEDIGREE 2 *infml* something that is a mixture of two types of thing: *The English word "television" is a mongrel because "tele" comes from Greek and "vision" from Latin.*

mon-ies /'mʌniz/ *n* [P] MONEYS

mon-i-tor 1 /'mɒnɪtə/||'mɑ:-/ *n* 1 also **monitor screen** /'... /— a television set used in a television STUDIO to see the picture that a television camera is receiving 2 an instrument that receives and shows continuous information about the working of something, such as a body part: *a heart monitor* 3 a a VDU (=a SCREEN for use with a computer) b *tech* the parts of a computer operation (such as PROGRAMS, CIRCUITS, etc.) that make sure that the computer system is working properly —see picture at COMPUTER 4 a person whose work is to listen to news, messages, etc., from foreign radio stations and report their contents 5 a pupil chosen to help the teacher or school in various ways: *The board monitor must clean the blackboard every morning.* | *a hall monitor*

monitor 2 *v* [T] (of a person or machine) to watch or listen to (something) carefully over a certain period of time for a special purpose: *This instrument monitors the patient's heartbeats.* | *We monitor the enemy's radio broadcasts for political information.*

monk /mʌŋk/ *n* a member of an all-male religious group who lives a life of service, obedience, and prayer or MEDITATION, usu. in a MONASTERY, owning nothing and not marrying —compare FRIAR, NUN

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The STEREOTYPE of a monk is of a man wearing a black or brown HABIT (= a piece of clothing like a long dress with a HOOD, tied round the waist with rope)

and SANDALS, with no hair on top of his head (see TONSURE). In cartoons monks are usually simple and harmless, and are sometimes pictured with a HALO. ◀

— ~ish *adj sometimes derog*

The Monkees



Mon-kees /'mʌŋki:z/, **The** an American popular music group formed in 1966, who made a number of successful television programmes but separated in 1969

mon-key 1 /'mʌŋki/ *n* 1 a small tree-climbing animal with a long tail belonging to the class of animals most like humans

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Monkeys are thought of as being clever animals that enjoy playing tricks ◀

2 *infml* a child who is full of annoying playfulness and tricks: *Stop that, you little monkey!* 3 *BrE sl* 500 pounds or dollars 4 **make a monkey (out) of someone** *infml* to make someone appear foolish 5 **monkey on one's back** *AmE* a serious and upsetting problem that one can't get rid of, esp. drug ADDICTION

monkey 2 *v*

monkey about/around *phr v* [I] *infml* to play foolishly: *The boys were monkeying about in the playground, and one of them got hurt.*

monkey with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T (ABOUT, AROUND)] *infml* to handle carelessly or irresponsibly: *You'll break the TV if you don't stop monkeying about with it.*

monkey bars /'.., .. / *n* [P] *AmE* for CLIMBING FRAME

monkey busi-ness /'.., .. / *n* [U] *infml* behaviour which causes trouble: *The children are being too good today; I think there's some monkey business going on.*

monkey nut /'.., .. / *n* *BrE old-fash* for PEANUT

monkey-puz-zle /'.., .. / also **monkey-puzzle tree** /'.., .. /— *n* a tree with dark green prickly leaves growing very close together on long branches sometimes grown in gardens as a form of decoration

mon-key-shine /'mʌŋkɪʃaɪn/ *n* *AmE* for PRACTICAL JOKE

monkey wrench /'.., .. / *n* a tool that can be used for holding or turning things of different widths

Monk-house /'mʌŋkhaʊs/, **Bob** (1928–) a British television entertainer known esp. for programmes such as *The Golden Shot*, *Celebrity Squares*, and *Family Fortunes*

mon-o 1 /'mɒnəʊ||'mɑ:-/ *adj* using a system of sound recording or broadcasting in which the sound appears to come from one direction only when played: *a mono record/record player* —compare QUADRAPHONIC, STEREO

mono 2 *n* [U] *infml* 1 mono sound 2 MONONUCLEOSIS

mono- see WORD FORMATION

mon-o-chrome /'mɒnəkrəʊm||'mɑ:-/ *adj* 1 using only black, white, and grey: *a monochrome television* 2 (of a painting, etc.) in only one colour: *a monochrome study of trees by a pool* | (fig.) *a dull monochrome existence* (=always the same)

mon-o-cle /'mɒnəkəl||'mɑ:-/ *n* an EYEGLASS for one eye only, worn in former times, esp. by UPPER-CLASS men

mo-nog-a-my /mə'nɒɡəmi||mə'nɑ:-/ *n* [U] the custom or practice of having only one wife or husband at one time, the only legal form of marriage in most of the western

monkey



world —compare BIGAMY, POLYGAMY —**mous** *adj*
—**mously** *adv*

mon-o-gram /'mɒnəgræm||'ma:-/ *n* a figure formed of two or more combined letters, esp. a person's INITIALS, that is printed on writing paper, or sewn on clothes, TOWELS, etc. A monogram is considered to be a sign of a wealthy person. — ~ **med** *adj*

mon-o-graph /'mɒnəgræf||'ma:nəgræf/ *n* [(on)] a serious article or short book on one particular subject that the writer has studied deeply

mon-o-ki-ni /'mɒnəki:ni||'ma:-/ *n* a piece of women's clothing for swimming which is in one piece and worn below the waist; a BIKINI without a top

mon-o-ling-ual /,mɒnəʊ'liŋgwəl-||,ma:nə-/ *adj* *tech* speaking or using only one language: *a monolingual dictionary* —compare BILINGUAL

mon-o-lith /'mɒnəlɪθ||'ma:-/ *n* **1** a large block of stone, usu. taller than it is wide, standing by itself, esp. as put up in former times for religious purposes **2** something which is large and very difficult to change

mon-o-lith-ic /,mɒnə'liθɪk-||,ma:-/ *adj* **1** of or like a monolith: *a monolithic office building* **2** often *derog* forming a large unchangeable whole: *a monolithic totalitarian state* — ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*

mon-o-logue || also **monolog** *AmE* /'mɒnəlɒg||'ma:nəlɒ:g-, -lɑ:g/ *n* **1** a long speech for a single actor or actress, usu. alone on stage **2** *infml* a rather long period of talking by one person, which prevents others from taking part in the conversation —compare DIALOGUE (2), SOLILOQUY

mon-o-ma-ni-a /,mɒnəʊ'meɪniə||,ma:-/ *n* [U] a condition of the mind in which a person keeps thinking of one particular idea or subject

mon-o-ma-ni-ac /,mɒnəʊ'meɪniæk||,ma:-/ *n, adj* (a person) suffering from monomania

mon-o-nu-cle-o-sis /,mɒnəʊnju:kli'əʊsɪs||,ma:nəʊnu:-/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE* for GLANDULAR FEVER

mon-oph-thong /'mɒnəfθɒŋ||'ma:nəfθɔ:ŋ/ *n* *tech* a single vowel sound, in which the organs of speech remain in the same position while it is being pronounced: *The vowel sound in "me" is a monophthong.* —compare DIPHTHONG

mon-o-plane /'mɒnəpleɪn||'ma:-/ *n* an aircraft with only one wing on each side, as used today by most AIRLINES —compare BIPLANE

Monopolies and Mergers Com-mis-sion /,... ..'lɒn.../ [*the*] a British organization which examines planned MERGERS between companies to see whether they would have a damaging effect on the public. It can make suggestions to the government but the government is not forced to act upon them. —compare ANTITRUST LAWS

mo-nop-o-list /mə'nɒpəlɪst||mə'nɑ:-/ *n* a person who has a monopoly — ~ **ic** /mə'nɒpəlɪstɪk-||mə'nɑ:-/ *adj* : *giant monopolistic corporations*

mo-nop-o-lize also **-lize** *BrE* /mə'nɒpəlaɪz||mə'nɑ:-/ *v* [T] to have or get complete control of: *The company eventually monopolized the entire cigarette industry.* | *Robert completely monopolized the conversation last night; Sally and I couldn't get a word in edgewise!* —**lization** /mə'nɒpəlaɪ'zeɪʃən||mə'nɑ:pələ-/ *n* [U] (of)

mo-nop-o-ly /mə'nɒpəli||mə'nɑ:-/ *n* **1** [C] control of all of the market for a product or service: *That airline has a monopoly on flights to Oslo.* | *The postal service is a government monopoly.* (=no one else is allowed to provide this service) **2** [S+of] possession of, or control over, something which is not shared by others: *He seems to think he has a monopoly of brains.* (=that he alone is clever) | *A university education shouldn't be the monopoly of the rich.*

Monopoly *n* [U] *tdmk* a board game in which players use IMITATION money to buy, rent, and sell squares on the board, and try to get more money than their opponents. The squares are marked with the names of real places, and the cost varies according to how valuable the real property would be. People sometimes use the expression **Monopoly money** to mean a very large, or too large, amount: *You know how much he's charging me to mend my roof? It's Monopoly money.*

mon-o-rail /'mɒnəreɪl||'ma:-/ *n* (a train travelling along the top of, or hanging from) a railway system with a single RAIL

mon-o-sod-i-um glu-tam-ate /,mɒnəʊ'səʊdiəm 'glu:təmeɪt||,ma:nə-/ (*abbrev. MSG*) *n* [U] a chemical compound added to certain foods, esp. meat, to give a strong, savoury flavour, and considered by many people to be bad for the health

mon-o-syl-lab-ic /,mɒnəsɪ'ləbɪk-||,ma:-/ *adj* — **1** *tech* (of a word) having one SYLLABLE **2** (of a remark) short and rather rude: *He was sulking, and would give only monosyllabic replies, such as "yes" and "no".* — ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*

mon-o-syl-la-ble /'mɒnə,sɪləbəl||'ma:-/ *n* *tech* a word with one SYLLABLE: "Can", "hot", and "neck" are monosyllables.

mon-o-the-is-m /'mɒnəʊθi:zəm||'ma:nə-/ *n* [U] *tech* the belief that there is only one God —compare POLYTHEISM —**ist** *n* —**tic** /,mɒnəʊθi:stɪk-||,ma:nə-/ *adj* : *Christianity is a monotheistic religion.*

mon-o-tone /'mɒnətəʊn||'ma:-/ *n* [S] a way of speaking or singing in which the voice neither rises nor falls, but continues on the same note: *to speak in a monotone*

mo-not-o-nous /mə'nɒtənəs||mə'nɑ:-/ *adj* having a tiring uninteresting sameness and lack of variety, dull: *He spoilt the poem by reading it in a monotonous voice.* | *My job is rather monotonous.* — ~ **ly** *adv*

mo-not-o-ny /mə'nɒtəni||mə'nɑ:-/ also **mo-not-o-nous-ness** /mə'nɒtənəsənɪs||mə'nɑ:-/ — *n* [U] sameness; lack of variety: *the monotony of his voice/the job*

mon-o-un-sat-u-rate /,mɒnəʊʌn'sætʃʊrɪt||,ma:-/ also **mon-o-un-sat-u-rat-ed fat** /,mɒnəʊʌnsætʃəreɪtɪd 'fæt||,ma:-/ — *n* *tech* a type of fat found esp. in vegetable foods which is less harmful than SATURATED fat, which is found in meat and DAIRY products

mo-nox-ide /mə'nɒksaɪd||mə'nɑ:k-/ *n* [C;U] *tech* a chemical compound containing one atom of oxygen to every atom of another ELEMENT: *carbon monoxide*

Mon-roe¹ /mən'rəʊ/, **James** (1758–1831) the fifth president of the US (1817–25). He is most remembered for the **Mon-roe Doctrine** (1823) which opposed the influence of Europe in the affairs of countries in North and South America.

Monroe², **Mar-i-lyn** /'mærɪlɪn/ (1926–62) an American film actress whose real name was **Norma Jean Baker**, who played sexy characters in many successful films before she died as a result of taking too many SLEEPING PILLS. For many people she represents the attractions of the female sex. —see picture on page 228

Mon-ro-vi-a /mən'rəʊviə/ a city and port which is the capital of Liberia, W Africa

Mon-sieur /mə'sjɜ:ʀ/ *n* **Messieurs** /meɪ'sjɜ:z||-ʒɪz/ (used as a title for a French-speaking man) *Mr: Monsieur Legrand*

Mon-si-gnor /mɒn'sɪnjəʀ||ma:n-/ *written abbrev. Mgr* — *n* (used as a title for a priest of high rank in the Roman Catholic church): *I agree, Monsignor.* | *Monsignor Bruce Kent*

mon-soon /mɒn'su:n||ma:n-/ *n* **1** [*the*] **a** (the period or season of) heavy rains which fall in India and other Asian countries from about April to October **b** the wind that brings these rains **2** [C] *infml* a very heavy fall of rain

mon-ster /'mɒnstəʀ||'ma:n-/ *n* **1** a strange typically imaginary animal that is large, frightening, and usu. fierce: *a sea monster* | *She dreamt that terrible monsters with flaming eyes and sharp teeth were chasing her.* **2** a very evil person: *This monster murdered 15 women before the police caught him.* **3** *infml* an animal, plant, or thing of unusually great size: *His dog is huge — a real monster!* | *a monster potato*

Monster Rav-ing Loon-y Par-ty /,... ..'lɒn.../ [*the*] a small British political party with ideas which are not intended to be taken seriously, but which some people vote for in order to show their dissatisfaction with the aims of all the other parties

mon-strance /'mɒnstrəns||'ma:n-/ *n* a cup usu. of silver or gold, and holding the holy bread, raised by the priest



monster

before the people during a service in a Roman Catholic church

mon-stros-i-ty /mɒn'strɒsɪti||mɑ:n'strɑ:z/ *n* *infml* something, esp. something large, that is very ugly: *Have you seen their new office building? What a monstrosity!*

mon-strous /'mɒnstrəs||'mɑ:n-/ *adj* **1** extremely bad, improper, immoral, or shocking; DISGRACEFUL: *It's monstrous to charge £80 for a hotel room!* | *monstrous cruelty* | *a monstrous accusation* **2** of unnaturally large size, strange shape, etc. **3** **monstrous regiment of women** *quote* a phrase from a work by John Knox, used when referring unkindly to a large group of women — *~ly adv*

mons ven-e-ris /,mɒnz 'venərɪs||,mɑ:nz-/ *n med* the raised rounded area of flesh between the top of a woman's legs and just above the sex organs

mon-tage /'mɒntɑ:ʒ||mɑ:n'tɑ:ʒ/ *n* **1** [C] a picture or a piece of writing or music made from separate parts combined together **2** [U] the choosing, cutting, and combining together of separate photographic material to make a connected film

Montagues /'mɒntəgju:z||-'mɑ:n/ see CAPULETS AND MONTAGUES

Mon-taigne /mɒn'teɪn||mɑ:n-/ **Mi-chel Ey-quem de** /mɪ:'ʃel i:'kɛm də/ (1533–92) a French writer of ESSAYS (=short articles on real subjects) who influenced many writers with his informal but careful way of writing

Mon-ta-na /mɒn'tɑ:nə||mɑ:n'tæ-/ (*written abbrev. MT*)—a mountainous state in the NW of the US, the fourth largest of the states but with one of the smallest populations —see colour maps on pages 1374–5

Mont Blanc /,mɒŋ 'blɑ:ŋ||məʊŋ-/ a mountain in the Alps which is the highest in Europe. A TUNNEL through Mont Blanc joins Italy and France.

Mon-te Car-lo /,mɒnti 'kɑ:ləʊ||,mɑ:nti 'kɑ:r-/ **1** a town in Monaco where many wealthy people live or visit. It has many CASINOS and is famous for a car RALLY and the Monaco Grand Prix car race which are held there every year. **2** **the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo** the title of an old British popular song about a man who won a lot of money by gambling (GAMBLE) at Monte Carlo

Mon-te Cris-to /,mɒnti 'krɪstəʊ||,mɑ:n-/ **Count of** a character in a book by the French writer Alexandre Dumas, who does not tell who he is as he wants to punish his enemies

Mon-te-go /mɒn'tɪgəʊ||mɑ:n-/ *n tdmk* a middle-sized car built by the British Rover Group

Montego Bay /,mɒŋtə'geɪ/ a city and port in NW Jamaica. It is a popular holiday resort and is the second largest town on the island

Mon-te-ne-gro /mɒntɪ'ni:grəʊ||mɑ:n-/ a republic in SW Yugoslavia with some Adriatic coastline

Mon-ter-rey /,mɒntə'reɪ||,mɑ:n-/ an industrial city in NE Mexico, the country's largest steel-making centre

Mon-tes-quieu /,mɒntə'ski:z||,mɑ:ntə'ski:z/, **Charles Louis de Se-con-dat** /sə'kɒn'dɑ:z||-kəʊn-/ **Baron de la Brède** /bred/ **et de** (1689–1755) a French political and social thinker whose book *The Spirit of the Laws* greatly influenced the system of laws and government of the US and other countries

Mon-tes-so-ri school /,mɒntɪ'sɔ:ri, skʊ:l||,mɑ:n-/ *n* a school for very young children in which they perform activities which allow them to develop freely and at their own speed (from the name of **Maria Montessori**, an Italian educator who developed the **Montessori method** now used in Montessori schools)

Mon-teux /mɒn'tɜ:z||məʊn-/ **Pi-erre** /pi'eə/ (1875–1964) an American CONDUCTOR (=a person who directs the playing of a group of musicians) who was born in France. He was chief conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra from 1960.

Mon-te-vi-de-o /,mɒntɪ'vi:deɪəʊ||,mɑ:n-/ a city and port in S Uruguay, the capital of the country

Mon-te-zu-ma /,mɒntɪ'zu:mə||,mɑ:n-/ (1480?–1520) the last Aztec ruler of Mexico, who was taken prisoner by the Spanish under Cortés, and later killed by his own people

Montezuma's re-venge /,mɒntɪ'zeɪʒə||-vɛɪʒə/ *n* [U] *humor* DIARRHOEA and stomach upset experienced by travellers in tropical countries, esp. in Mexico and Latin America

Mont-gom-e-ry /mɒnt'gʌməri/, **Field Marshal** (1887–1976) an English military commander, known to the British

people as **Monty**, who led the British army to victory at El Alamein in 1942 during the Second World War

Montgomery Ward & Com-pany /,mɒŋtə'gəri wɔ:rd/ also **Wards** *infml*—in the US, one of a group of large shops which sell many different kinds of goods. The company has stores in all 50 states and also sells goods by post.

month /mʌnθ/ *n* **1** any of the 12 named divisions of the (Western) year: *The month of January has 31 days.* | *He's coming home next month.* **2** a period of about four weeks: *The baby is six months old.* | *I haven't seen him for months.* (=for a long time) **3** **in a month of Sundays** *infml* in a very long time: *I haven't seen her in a month of Sundays.* (=It's a very long time since I've seen her.) —see also CALENDAR MONTH, LUNAR MONTH

month-ly /'mʌnθli/ *adj, adv* (happening, appearing, etc.) every month or once a month: *a monthly meeting*

monthly *n* **1** a magazine appearing once a month **2** *AmE infml* a woman's PERIOD (4)

Mont-mar-tre /mɒn'mɑ:trə||məʊn-/ an area of Paris in which the **Basilique du Sacré-Cœur**, a famous church, is found. Many people connect Montmartre with painters such as Toulouse-Lautrec, and think of it as a place where people lived as they wished and not how society said they ought to.

Mon-tre-al /,mɒntri:'ɔ:l/||,mɑ:n-/ a city and port on **Montreal Island** in the St. Lawrence river in S Quebec, in E Canada. Most people living in Montreal speak French as their main language.

Mon-treux Gold Rose /mɒn'trɜ: gəʊld 'rəʊz||mɑ:n'trəʊ-/ [*the*] a prize given to the winner of a competition for television programmes held every year in **Montreux**, W Switzerland

Mont-ser-rat /,mɒntsə'ræt||,mɑ:nt-/ an island in the West Indies, one of the Leeward Islands, politically controlled by Britain; capital Plymouth —**Montserration** /-sə'reɪʃən/ *n, adj*

Mon-ty Py-thon /,mɒnti 'paɪθən||,mɑ:nti 'paɪθən, -θən/ also **Monty Python's Flying Circus** a set of British television programmes produced in the 1970s by a team of British male actors and COMEDIANS who invented a type of SURREAL humour. The programmes were made up of short, humorous SKETCHES in which people often behaved in strange, silly, or rude ways: *It's the strangest meeting I've ever been to. It was like something out of Monty Python.* —see also PYTHONESQUE, John CLEESE, DEAD PARROT SKETCH, MINISTRY OF SILLY WALKS

mon-u-ment /'mɒnjʊmənt||'mɑ:z-/ *n* **1** [(to)] a building, PILLAR, etc., built to preserve the memory of a person or event: *This statue is a monument to one of our greatest statesmen.* | (fig.) *Those empty office buildings are a monument to bad planning.* —compare MEMORIAL **2** a very old building or place, considered worth preserving for its historic interest or beauty: *The ruins of the castle are an ancient monument; there is a preservation order on them.* **3** **the Monument** a COLUMN built in E central London in memory of the Great Fire of London (1666), which began near where the Monument stands

mon-u-ment-al /,mɒnjʊ'mentl/||,mɑ:z-/ *adj* **1** [A] built as a monument: *a monumental pillar to commemorate a naval victory* **2** very large and causing great admiration: *The artist spent years on his monumental painting, which covered the whole ceiling of the church.* **3** *infml* (of something bad) very great in degree: *monumental stupidity*

mon-u-ment-al-ly /,mɒnjʊ'mentəli||,mɑ:z-/ *adv* extremely: *a monumentally stupid action*

moo ¹ /mu:/ *v* [I] to make the sound that a cow makes

moo ² *n-s* **1** the sound that a cow makes **2** *BrE sl, becoming old-fash* a stupid or worthless woman: *You silly moo!*

mooch /mu:tʃ/ *v* [T] *AmE sl* to get by asking for it: *He tried to mooch a drink off me.*

mooch about/around *phr v* [I] *infml* to wander about with no purpose, and rather unhappily —*er n usu. derog*

mood ¹ /mu:d/ *n* **1** a state of the feelings at a particular time: *His moods change very quickly; one moment he's cheerful, and the next he's complaining about everything.* | *The beautiful sunny morning put him in a good mood.* | *The boss is in a bad mood today.* (=in a bad temper) | *The government had misjudged the mood of the public and was not prepared for the storm of anger which greeted its new measures.* [+to-v] *I'm very tired, and not in the mood to argue.* | *The management is in no mood for* (=not prepared for) *compromise over this issue.* **2** a state of feeling

in which one is bad-tempered, silently angry or displeased, etc.: *Don't ask him to lend you money when he's in one of his moods.* (=in a bad temper, as he often is) | *She's in a mood this morning.*

mood² *n* *tech* (in grammar) any of the various sets of verb forms that express, for example **a** a fact or action (INDICATIVE²), **b** a command (IMPERATIVE² (1)), or **c** a doubt, wish, etc. (SUBJUNCTIVE). These are the only three moods in English, though others exist in other languages.

mood mu-sic /'mu:zɪk/ *n* [U] *AmE* music that is supposed to put the listener in a good mood

mood-y /'mu:di/ *adj* *usu. derog* **1** having moods that change often and quickly: *a moody child* **2** bad-tempered, angry, displeased, or unhappy, esp. without good reason —*ily adv* —*iness n* [U]

Moody's In-vest-ors Ser-vice /'mu:di 'ɪn-vest-ɔ:z sɜ:vɪs/ also **Moody's** *infml*— an American company with branches in various countries that offers advice about how dependable INVESTMENTS may be: *The bonds have a Moody's AAA rating.*

moo-la, moolah /'mu:lə/ *n* [U] *AmE sl* money

moon¹ /mu:n/ *n* **1** [*the*] (*often cap.*) the body which moves round the Earth once every 28 days, and can be seen shining in the sky at night **2** [S] this body as it appears at a particular time: *There's no moon tonight.* (=it cannot be seen) | *a crescent moon* **3** [C] a body that moves round a PLANET other than the Earth: *the moons of Saturn* **4** [C *usu. pl.*] *esp. poet* a month: *many moons ago* **5 over the moon** *BrE infml* very happy: *She's over the moon about her new job.* —see also LUNAR, BLUE MOON, FULL MOON, HALF MOON, NEW MOON, **bay at the moon** (BAY⁴), **cry for the moon** (CRY¹), **promise someone the moon** (PROMISE²), **shoot the moon** (SHOOT¹)

moon² *v* also **throw a moon** || **shoot the moon** *AmE* to bend over and show one's bare BUTTOCKS as a joke or a sign of disrespect. Mooning is *usu.* done by men: *The students mooned the governor's motorcade.*

moon about/around *phr v* [I] *BrE infml* to move about or pass time lazily or in a dreamlike state, with no purpose, interest, etc.: *Stop mooning about and do something useful for a change!*

moon over *sbdy./sthg. phr v* [T] *infml* to be in a dreamlike state of unsatisfied desire for (esp. a person): *She spent hours mooning over her favourite actor.*

moon-beam /'mu:nbi:m/ *n* a beam of moonlight: *moonbeams shafting through the trees*

moon boot /'mu:nbu:t/ *n* *BrE* a thick padded (PAD) boot worn in cold weather —compare MUCKLUCKS and see picture at SHOE

Moon-ie /'mu:ni/ *n* (a member of) a religious group, the official name of which is the **Unification Church**, which was started in 1954 by **Sun Myung Moon**, a Korean industrialist. Many Moonies are young people who are thought to have been persuaded to leave their families and friends to live in groups with other Moonies: *to join the Moonies* | *After he became a Moonie we never saw him again.*

moon-less /'mu:nləs/ *adj* (of a night, or the night sky) dark, because the moon is not able to be seen: *a dark, moonless night*

moon-light¹ /'mu:nlaɪt/ *n* [U] the light of the moon: *The hills were bathed in pale/soft moonlight.* | *a moonlight walk* (=at night)

moonlight² *v* ~**ed** [I] *infml* **1** to have an additional job, esp. unofficially or without the knowledge of the government tax department **2** *BrE* || **double-dip** *AmE*— to work although one is claiming money from the government for being unemployed: *He's been moonlighting for the past year as a plumber.* —~**er n** —~**ing n** [U]

moonlight flit /'mu:nlaɪt/ *n* *BrE infml* an act of secretly escaping, esp. from someone to whom one owes something: *They did a moonlight flit and left the flat without paying the rent.*

moon-lit /'mu:n,lɪt/ *adj* [A] given light by the moon: *a moonlit valley*

moon-scape /'mu:nseɪp/ *n* a bare empty area which looks like the surface of the moon

moon-shine /'mu:nʃaɪn/ *n* [U] *infml* **1** foolish or impractical talk; nonsense **2** *esp. AmE* strong alcoholic drink produced illegally

moon shot /'mu:nʃɒt/ *n* a journey to the moon by a spacecraft

moon-stone /'mu:nstəʊn/ *n* a milky-white stone used in making jewellery

moon-struck /'mu:nstrʌk/ *adj infml* slightly mad

moon-y /'mu:ni/ *adj infml* dreamy and purposeless

moor¹ /muə/ also **moors** *pl.*— *n esp. BrE* a wide, open, often high, area of land, covered with rough grass or low bushes, that is not farmed because of its bad soil: *shooting grouse up on the moors* | *the Yorkshire moors*

moor² *v* [I;T (to)] to fasten (a ship, boat, etc.) to land, the bottom of the sea, etc., by means of ropes, an ANCHOR, etc.: *We moored in the estuary, waiting for high tide.*

Moore¹ /muə/, **Bobby** (1941–93) an English footballer who was the captain of the English 1966 World Cup team

Moore², **Dud-ley** /'dʌdli/ (1935–) a British musician and COMEDIAN, famous esp. for his television partnership with Peter Cook. He has also made several films and is well-known as a PIANIST, particularly for playing JAZZ.

Moore³, **Henry** (1898–1986) an English SCULPTOR esp. famous for his works in wood and stone, in which the structure of the material influences the shape of the finished work

Moore⁴, **Mar-i-ann** /,mæri'æn/ (1887–1972) an American poet and CRITIC, known for her clever and SATIRICAL poems

Moore⁵, **Ma-ry Ty-ler** /'meəri 'taɪlə/ (1936–) an American actress who was in several popular humorous television programmes, esp. *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, in which she played a woman who worked in a television news room

Moore⁶, **Pat-rick** /'pætrɪk/ (1923–) an English ASTRONOMER (=person who studies the stars) who has written books and has also appeared often on television. He is very popular, and famous for his fast speech and untidy hair.

Moore⁷, **Roger** (1928–) a British actor known esp. for playing James Bond in films

moor-hen /'muəhen/ || 'muə-/ *n* a black bird that lives beside streams and lakes

moor-ings /'muərɪŋz/ *n* [P] **1** a the ropes, etc., used for mooring: *The ship's moorings broke during the storm.* **b** also **mooring**— a place where a ship or boat is moored **2** the means by which something is fastened to something else: *The big banner had become detached from its moorings.* | (fig.) *Children from broken homes tend to lose their emotional moorings.*

Moor-ish /'muərɪʃ/ *adj* of the Muslim peoples of mixed Arab race (**Moors**) who held power in Spain from 711 to 1492: *Moorish architecture*

moor-land /'muələnd/ || 'muə-/ also **moorlands** *pl.*— *n* [U] *esp. BrE* open country that is a moor

Moors Mur-der-ers /'muəz 'mɜ:ðəz/ *n* [*the*+P] Ian Brady and Myra Hindley, who murdered several children and buried them on moorland in N England in the early 1960s and were sent to prison for life

moose /mu:s/ *n* **moose** a large deer with very large flat horns, that lives in North America and in Northern Europe

moot /mu:t/ *v esp. BrE* [T *usu. pass.*] to state (a question, matter, etc.) for consideration; suggest: *The question of changing the club's rules was mooted at the last meeting.*

moot point /'mu:t pɔɪnt/ also **moot ques-tion** /'mu:t 'kwestʃən/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** an undecided point; point on which there is more than one opinion: *"Will the government's measures really influence race relations in any way?" "It's a moot point."* (=I rather doubt that they will) **2** a point which is no longer important: *Since he's offered to pay for the damage, it's a moot point whether it was really him who caused it.*

mop¹ /mɒp/ || mɔ:p/ *n* **1** [C] a tool for washing floors, made up of a long stick with threads of thick string or a piece of SPONGE fastened to one end **2** [S (of)] *infml* a thick *usu.* untidy mass (of hair) looking as if it has not been brushed

mop² *v* -**pp-** [T] **1** to wash (esp. a floor) with a wet mop: *I mop the kitchen floor twice a week.* —see CLEAN² (USAGE) **2** [(with)] to make dry by rubbing with a cloth or other soft material: *It was such a hot day that he had to keep mopping his forehead with his handkerchief.* **3**

[+obj+adv/prep] to remove (unwanted liquid) by rubbing with cloth or other soft material: *The nurse gently mopped the blood from the wound.*

mop sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to remove (unwanted liquid, dirt, etc.) with a mop or cloth: *You spilt the milk, so you mop it up!* **2** to finish dealing with: *The rebellion has been crushed, but mopping-up operations may take a few more weeks.* **3** to use up; ABSORB: *The rebuilding programme soon mopped up all the allocated funds.* — **mop-up** /'mɒp-ʊ/ *n* *infml*

mope /məʊp/ *v* [I] *derog* to continue to be sad without trying to become more cheerful

mope about/around *phr v* [I] *derog* to move about in a sad, lifeless way

moped /'məʊpəd/ *n* a bicycle which has a small engine; a small MOTORCYCLE

mop-pet /'mɒpɪt/ 'mɔː-/ *n* *infml*, *usu. apprec* a child, esp. a girl

Mop-sy /'mɒpsi/ 'mɔːp-/ a rabbit who is one of the sisters of Peter Rabbit in the children's stories by Beatrix Potter

moquette /mɒ'ket/ 'mɔː-/ *n* [U] a thick soft material used for making esp. furniture coverings

mo-raine /mə'reɪn/ *n* a mass of earth, pieces of rock, etc., left in a line at the edge or end of a GLACIER —see picture at MOUNTAIN

moral¹ /'mɒrəl/ 'mɔː-/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] concerning or based on principles of right and wrong behaviour and the difference between good and evil: *a man of high moral principles/standards* | *He refused to join the army on moral grounds.* | *You don't know all the circumstances of their divorce, so don't make moral judgments about it.* | *Babies aren't born with a moral sense.* (=they cannot tell the difference between right and wrong) | *He ran away from the enemy; it's clear the fellow has no moral fibre.* (=is a coward) | *moral courage* **2** based on the idea of what is right rather than on what is legal or effective in a practical way: *He isn't legally responsible for his nephew, but he feels he has a moral obligation/responsibility to help him.* | *I can't help your scheme with money, but I'll give you moral support.* (=encouragement) | *We lost the vote, but it was really a moral victory for our side.* (=we proved that we were right) **3** good in character, behaviour, etc.; pure, esp. in matters of sex: *a very moral man* —compare AMORAL, IMMORAL

moral² *n* a piece of guidance on how to live one's life, how to act more effectively, etc., that can be learnt from a story or event: *The moral of this story is that crime doesn't pay.* —see also MORALS

mo-rale /mə'reɪl/ 'mɔːræl/ *n* [U] the condition of courage, determination, and pride in the mind(s) of a person, team, army, etc.; level of confidence: *The soldiers' morale was high/low.* | *The trapped men kept up their morale by singing together.* | *Simply telling him how valuable his work was boosted his morale a lot.*

mor-al-ist /'mɒrəlɪst/ 'mɔː-/ *n* **1** a teacher of moral principles **2** *usu. derog* a person who tries to control other people's morals

mor-al-ist-ic /'mɒrəlɪstɪk/ 'mɔː-/ *adj* *derog* having very firm unchanging narrow ideas about right and wrong behaviour — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

mo-ral-i-ty /mə'reɪlɪti/ *n* [U] rightness or honesty of behaviour, of an action, etc.: *One sometimes wonders if there's any morality in politics.* | *to question the morality of someone's actions* —opposite IMMORALITY

morality play /'mɔːrəlɪti/ *n* a theatrical play, often performed in the years 1400–1600, in which good and bad human qualities were represented as people —compare MIRACLE PLAY

mor-al-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'mɒrəlaɪz/ 'mɔː-/ *v* [I (about, on)] *usu. derog* to express one's thoughts on the rightness or, more usually, the wrongness of behaviour —**-izer** *n*

mor-al-ly /'mɒrəli/ 'mɔː-/ *adv* **1** with regard to right behaviour: *What you did wasn't actually illegal, but it was morally wrong.* **2** *apprec* in a MORAL¹ (3) way —opposite IMMORALLY **3** *fml* most probably: *It's morally certain that she'll be the next Minister of Education.*

Moral Ma-jor-i-ty /'mɔːrəl 'maɪərɪti/ [the] **1** *tdmk* a religious and political group started by the Rev. Jerry Falwell, which was an important force in the election of Ronald Reagan and

other CONSERVATIVE politicians to office in 1980 **2** *AmE* Americans whose views are right-wing and FUNDAMENTALIST Christian, and who believe, e.g. that ABORTION should be against the law

Moral Re-ar-ma-ment Move-ment /'mɔːrəl 'riːərmənt muːvmənt/ [the] an organization begun in 1938 by the American EVANGELIST Frank Buchman (1878–1961) who had earlier begun the Oxford Group. Its aims were to act against the MATERIALISM of society by living according to high standards of morality, love, and religion.

mor-als /'mɒrəlz/ 'mɔː-/ *n* [P] standards of behaviour, esp. in matters of sex: *How can you cheat your own family like that? Haven't you got any morals at all?* | *a woman of loose morals* (=of bad sexual behaviour)

mo-rass /mə'ræs/ *n* **1** [C] *esp. lit* a dangerous area of soft wet ground; MARSH **2** [S (of)] a position from which it is almost impossible to free oneself: *They seemed to be bogged down in a morass of detail.*

mor-a-to-ri-um /'mɒrə'tɔːriəm/ 'mɔː-/ *n* **-ria** /riə/ [(on)] an official period of delay: *The council has declared a moratorium on the building of new houses.* (=it will not build any more for a particular time) | *a moratorium on arms sales* —compare EMBARGO¹

Mo-ray /'mɔːri/ 'mɔːri/ a former COUNTY in NE Scotland, now part of Grampian REGION

mor-bid /'mɔːbɪd/ 'mɔːr-/ *adj* **1** *derog* unhealthily interested in unpleasant subjects, esp. those concerning death: *a morbid fascination with the details of the murder* **2** *med* connected with or caused by disease of body or mind — **~ly** *adv* — **~ity** /mɔː'bɪdɪti/ 'mɔːr-/ *n* [U]

mor-dant /'mɔːdənt/ 'mɔːr-/ *adj* (esp. of the way of expressing thoughts) cruel and cutting: *His political opponents feared his mordant wit.* — **~ly** *adv*

Mor-dred /'mɔːdred/ 'mɔːr-/ in the ARTHURIAN LEGEND either the NEPHEW or son of King Arthur. He tries to take over the kingdom and is killed in battle by Arthur. —see also ARTHURIAN LEGEND

more¹ /mɔːr/ *adv* [(than)] **1** (used for forming the COMPARATIVE of most adjectives and adverbs with more than TWO SYLLABLES, and of many that have only two): *The first question is more difficult than the second.* | *His illness was (much) more serious than we had thought.* | *Could you explain the problem (a bit) more simply?* | *We'd like to go there more often.* —opposite **less** **2** to a greater degree: *He'll never play well if he doesn't practise more.* | *She seems to care (far/much) more for her dogs than for her children.* | *Businesses use computers a lot more than they used to.* | *It's her voice I dislike, more than what she says.* | *I couldn't agree more.* (=I completely agree.) —opposite **less** **3** again (in the phrases **any more**, **once more**, **no more**): *They used to be good friends, but they don't like each other any more.* (=any longer) | *I'll repeat the question once more.* | (lit) *The ship sank below the waves, and was seen no more.* (=never again) **4** and what is more also, and more importantly: *She admitted she'd spoken to them, and what's more had told them about our secret discussions.* **5** **more often than not** *infml* at most times; usually: *I like cooking, but more often than not I just open a tin of something when I get home.* **6** **more than a little** *pomp* very: *I was more than a little angry when I saw how they'd ruined it.* **7** **more than pleased/sorry/etc.** *fml* extremely pleased/sorry/etc.: *If you are not satisfied with your purchase, we will be more than happy to refund your money.* | *He was more than willing to help.* **8** **more ... than ...** it is more true to say ... than ...: *She's more thoughtless than stupid.* **9** **no more often** *pomp* neither: *She can't afford a car, and no more can I.* **10** **no more ... than** in no greater degree ... than: *He's no more fit to be a priest than I am!* (=is completely unfit)

more² *determiner, pron* (comparative of **many**, **much**) [(of, than)] **1** a larger number or amount: *There are more cars on the roads in summer than in winter.* | *As he grows weaker, he spends more of his time in bed.* | **No more than** *five people applied for the job.* (=only five people, which was surprising) | *There were not more than* (=probably fewer than) *a hundred people at the rally.* | *It's no/not more than a mile to the sea.* | *More than one school has closed.* | *Wine costs more than beer.* —opposite **less** or **fewer** (see USAGE) **2** an additional number or amount: *Have some more tea!* | *I have to write two more letters this morning.* (=besides those already written) | *There's no more milk left — I'd better go and buy some more.* | *A lot*

of houses are being built, but many more are needed. | If you stay at that hotel, you'll have to pay a little more. | I'd like to know more about the job. | She's got a good job and plenty of money – what more does she want? (=surely she has everything she wants) | Tell me more! (= I'm interested in what you say.) –opposite **less** or **fewer** (see USAGE) **3 more and more** increasingly; (an amount) that continues to become larger: *The questions get more and more difficult.* | *I seem to spend more and more on food every week!* –opposite **less and less** **4 more or less:** a almost; nearly: *The job's more or less finished.* **b** about; not exactly: *The repairs will cost £50, more or less.* **5 BrE (the) more** the greater: *"I'm slimming, so I haven't eaten for three days."* *"(The) more fool you!"* (=you are very foolish) **6 the more ... , the more/less, etc.** (used to show that two things change together): *The more I see of him, the less I like him.* | *The more he eats, the fatter he gets.* | *"Can I bring some friends to your party?"* *"Of course – the more, the merrier!"* (=the more people there are, the better the party will be) –see also **more ... than you've had hot dinners** (DINNER), **more's the pity** (PITY¹)

▷ USAGE **More** is the opposite of both **less** (for amounts) and **fewer** (for numbers). Compare *a few/three/many/a great many more* (opposite **fewer**) *friends* and *a bit/a little/much/a great deal more* (opposite **less**) *money*. With both amounts and numbers you can use *far, some, any, no, rather*, and *lots/a lot (infml): far more eggs/butter.* ◀

More, Sir Thomas (1478–1535) an English STATESMAN and writer. His most famous work is *Utopia*, about a perfect state governed by reason. He worked for King Henry VIII but refused to recognize him as head of the Church of England. For this he was put in prison and finally had his head cut off.

More-cambe and Wise /,mɔːkəm ənd 'waɪz/ ||,mɔːr-/ two British COMEDIANS, **Eric Morecambe** (1926–84) and **Ernie Wise** (1925–) who had a very popular television show which ran for more than 20 years. Many well-known people appeared as guests on the show although they often had to do things that made them look slightly silly. The shows are still repeated on British television, esp. around Christmas.

more-ish /'mɔːrɪʃ/ *adj BrE infml* (of food) very tasty, causing a desire for more: *"I can't stop eating these chocolates – they're so moreish!"*

more-o-ver /mɔːr'əʊvə/ *adv fml* besides what has been said; in addition: *The rent is reasonable, and moreover, the location is perfect.*

mo-res /'mɔːreɪz/ *n* [P] *fml or tech* the moral customs of a particular group: *current social mores*

mor-ga-nat-ic /,mɔːgə'nætɪk/ ||,mɔːr-/ *adj tech* (of a marriage) between a royal person and someone of lower rank, in which neither the person of lower rank, nor the children of the marriage, are allowed to take royal titles

Mor-gan le Fay /,mɔːgən lə 'feɪ/ ||,mɔːr-/ in the ARTHURIAN LEGEND, a sister of King Arthur with magic powers –see also ARTHURIAN LEGEND

morgue /mɔːg/ ||,mɔːrg/ *n* **1** a MORTUARY¹ **2 derog** a sad lifeless place: *This pub's a bit of a morgue; let's liven it up with some dancing.* **3 infml tech** a collection of past copies of a newspaper, kept in the offices of the newspaper

MORI poll /'mɔːrɪ, pəʊl/ *n* a special count of opinions in a country, done by a company called Market and Opinion Research International, who question a number of people chosen as being typical of the whole population: *The Labour party has increased in popularity, according to a recent MORI poll.*

mor-i-bund /'mɔːrɪbʌnd/ ||'mɔː-, 'mɔː-/ *adj fml* no longer operating effectively: *A new manager was brought in to revive the moribund business.* –compare OBSOLESCE

Mor-mon /'mɔːmən/ ||'mɔːr-/ *n* a member of a religious organization, formed in 1830 in the US by Joseph Smith and officially called **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**.

► CULTURAL NOTE The largest groups of Mormons live in the W and NW states of the US, and esp. in Utah, where most of the people are Mormons. They have strict moral rules and do not drink alcohol or coffee. Many people associate POLYGAMY (= a man having more than one wife) with Mormons, although most of them no longer practise

this. They also have churches in Britain, and sometimes go from house to house trying to persuade people to join their church. ◀

– ~ **ism** *n* [U]

morn /mɔːn/ ||,mɔːrn/ *n poet* a morning

morning /'mɔːnɪŋ/ ||'mɔːr-/ *n* [C;U] **1** the first part of the day, from the time when the sun rises, usu. until the time when the midday meal is eaten: *a fine morning* | *tomorrow morning* | *on Tuesday mornings* | *mid-morning coffee* | *On Christmas morning we go to church.* | *It's very late; can't it wait until (the) morning?* (=tomorrow morning) | *The people next door play their radio from morning till night.* (=all day) | *the morning papers* (=newspapers) **2** the part of the day from midnight until midday: *He didn't get home until two o'clock in the morning.* **3 in the morning** tomorrow morning: *I haven't got what you want now, but I can get it for you in the morning.* | *I'll do it first thing in the morning.* (=very early tomorrow) **4 morning, noon, and night** all and every day and night –see also COFFEE MORNING, GOOD MORNING, MORNINGS

morning-after pill /,mɔːrɪ 'piːl/ *n* a drug taken by mouth by a woman within 72 hours after having sex, in order to prevent her from having a baby. It is not intended to be a regular method of CONTRACEPTION.

morning coat /'mɔːrɪ 'kəʊt/ *n* a TAILCOAT worn as part of morning dress

morning dress /'mɔːrɪ 'dres/ *n* **1** [U] *esp. BrE* formal clothes worn by a man at a ceremony in the daytime (such as a wedding) that include a morning coat, trousers, and a TOP HAT –see picture at EVENING DRESS **2** [C] *AmE* an informal dress worn by women esp. when doing work in the home

morning glo-ry /,mɔːrɪ 'glɔːri/ ||'mɔːrɪ 'glɔːri/ *n* [C;U] a climbing plant with blue, white, or pink flowers

Morning Prayer /,mɔːrɪ 'preɪ/ also **matins, mattins**– *n* [U] a morning church service in the Church of England and the Episcopal Church in the US –compare EVENSONG

morning room /'mɔːrɪ 'ruːm/ *n* *rather old-fash* a room (usu. in a large house) for use in the morning, e.g. because it catches the morning light

morn-ings /'mɔːnɪŋz/ ||'mɔːrɪ 'adv *esp. AmE* in the morning; during any morning: *She works mornings.*

morning sick-ness /'mɔːrɪ 'sɪknəs/ ||'mɔːrɪ 'sɪknəs/ *n* [U] a feeling of sickness in the early morning suffered by women in early PREGNANCY

morning star /,mɔːrɪ 'stɑː/ *n* [the] a bright PLANET, esp. Venus, seen in the eastern sky at sunrise –compare EVENING STAR

Morning Star *n* [the] a daily newspaper, no longer produced, which supported the ideas of the Communist Party of Great Britain

morning suit /'mɔːrɪ 'suːt/ *n* a man's formal suit, worn at formal occasions during the day, e.g. weddings

mo-roc-co /mɔː'rɒkəʊ/ ||mɔː'rɒkəʊ/ *n* [U] fine soft leather made from goatskin, used esp. for covering books

Mo-roc-co a Muslim country in NW Africa bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, whose people speak Arabic, Berber, and French; capital Rabat; population 24,522,000 (1989)– **Moroccan** *n,adj*

mo-ron /'mɔːrɒn/ ||'mɔːrɒn/ *n* **1 derog** a very stupid person: *You've put salt in my tea, you moron!* **2 tech** for MENTAL DEFECTIVE – ~ **ic** /mɔː'rɒnɪk/ ||mɔː'rɒnɪk/ *adj* : a moronic grin/stare – ~ **ically** /kli/ *adv*

mo-rose /mɔː'rəʊs/ *adj derog* bad-tempered, unhappy, and silent: *He came home tired and morose after a long and unsuccessful day's work.* – ~ **ly** *adv* – ~ **ness** *n* [U]

mor-pHEME /'mɔːfɪm/ ||'mɔːrɪ 'n *tech* the smallest meaningful unit in a language, consisting of a word or part of a word that cannot be divided without losing its meaning: *"Gun" is one morpheme; "gun-s" contains two morphemes; "gun-fight-er" contains three morphemes.*

Mor-phe-us /'mɔːfɪəs, -fjuːs/ ||'mɔːrɪ 'n **1** in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the Greek god of dreams and sleep **2 in the arms of Morpheus** *lit or pomp* asleep

mor-phine /'mɔːfɪn/ ||'mɔːrɪ 'n also **mor-phi-a** /-fiə/ *old-fash*– *n* [U] a powerful and ADDICTIVE drug used for stopping pain and making people calmer

mor-phol-o-gy /mɔː'fɒlədʒi/ ||mɔːrɪ'fɒlədʒi/ *n tech* **1** [U] the

study of the morphemes of a language, and of the way in which they are joined together to make words — compare SYNTAX **2** [U] the scientific study of the formation of animals, plants, and their parts **3** [C;U] the structure or formation of an object or system —**gical** /,mɔːfə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ || ,mɔːrfə'lɑː-/ *adj*

Mor-ris¹ /'mɒrɪs/ || 'mɔː-, 'mɑː-/ a former British company which made cars, VANS, and lorries (LORRY), now part of the Rover Group

Morris², **Des-mond** /'dezmond/ (1928–) a British ANTHROPOLOGIST (=person who studies the human race) who has written popular books about human and animal behaviour, the best-known of which is *The Naked Ape*

Morris³, **Philip** see PHILIP MORRIS

Strawberry Thief by William Morris



Morris⁴, **William** (1834–96) an English CRAFTSMAN, writer, and supporter of social change, who designed (DESIGN¹) and made his own furniture and materials and formed the Socialist League in 1884: *William Morris wallpaper* (=wallpaper with a pattern originally designed by William Morris)

morris dance /'..-/ *n* any of various old English country dances usu. performed out doors in the summer by a group of men who wear special white clothes to which small bells are often fixed

Morris Mi-nor /'..-/ *n* tdmk a small British car built by Austin Morris from the 1950s to the 1970s which is still very popular and often sold for high prices today. The **Morris Minor Traveller**, the ESTATE CAR model of the Morris Minor, is connected in many people's minds with supporters of environmental or green organizations.

Mor-ri-son /'mɒrɪsən/ || 'mɔː-, **Jim** /dʒɪm/ (1943–71) a singer with the ROCK³ group the Doors, who died of taking too much of an illegal drug. Morrison is sometimes seen as an example of someone with many abilities who could not deal with the pressures of fame.

mor-row /'mɒrəʊ/ || 'mɑː-/ *n* **1** [the] *lit* a the day following today: *Let's hope that the morrow will bring better news.* | *We leave on the morrow.* (=tomorrow) **b** the time closely following an event; the future: *The war was at an end, and the nation was full of hopes for the morrow.* **2** *good morrow* *old use* good morning!

Morse code /,mɔːs 'kəʊd/ || ,mɔːrs-/ also **Morse**— *n* [U] a system of sending messages by radio, a lamp, etc., in which each letter is represented by a sign made up of one or more short signals (dots) and long signals (DASHES) in sound or light (named after Samuel Morse, an American who invented Morse code in 1844)

mor-sel /'mɔːsəl/ || 'mɔːr-/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a very small piece of food: *just a morsel of cake* | *a few choice/tasty morsels* **2** [S (of) usu. in questions or negatives] a very small piece or quantity of anything: *If he had a morsel of (=any) sense he'd realize.*

mor-ta-del-la /,mɔːtə'delə/ || ,mɔːr-/ *n* [U] a kind of Italian SAUSAGE

mor-tal¹ /'mɔːtl/ || 'mɔːrtl/ *adj* **1** that will die; not living for ever: *all mortal creatures* —opposite **immortal** **2** [A] human; of human beings: *beyond mortal power* **3** causing or ending in death: *a mortal wound/injury* | *mortal combat* | *in mortal danger* —compare **LETHAL** **4** [A] (of an enemy) having a lasting hatred, that can never change into friendship **5** [A] (of fear, etc.) extremely great: *She lives in mortal terror of her husband's anger.* —see also **MORTALLY**, **shuffle off this mortal coil** (SHUFFLE¹ (4))

mortal² *n* [usu. pl.] esp. *lit* a human being as compared with a god, a spirit, etc.: *We're all mortals, with our human faults and weaknesses.*

mor-tal-i-ty /mɔː'tælɪti/ || ,mɔːr-/ *n* **1** [S;U] also **mortality rate** /'..-/ the rate or number of deaths caused by a particular thing, happening among a certain kind of people, etc.: *If this disease spreads, the doctors fear that there'll be a high mortality (rate).* | **Infant mortality** (=the rate at which babies die) *is still very high in some*

countries. **2** [U] the condition of being **MORTAL**¹ (1) —opposite **immortality**

mor-tal-ly /'mɔːtəli/ || 'mɔːr-/ *adv* **1** in a way that causes death: *He fell to the ground, mortally wounded.* **2** very greatly; deeply: *She was mortally offended by your remarks.*

mortal sin /'..-/ *n* [C;U] (in the Roman Catholic religion) (an act of) wrongdoing so great that it will bring EVER-LASTING punishment to the soul after death if it is not forgiven

mor-tar¹ /'mɔːtə/ || 'mɔːr-/ *n* [U] a mixture of LIME, sand, and water, used in building, esp. for joining bricks together: *Put your money into bricks and mortar.* (=buy a house)

mortar² *n* **1** a heavy gun with a short barrel, firing an explosive that falls from a great height **2** a hard bowl in which substances are crushed with a PESTLE into very small pieces or powder —see picture at **LABORATORY**

mor-tar-board /'mɔːtəbɔːd/ || 'mɔːrtəbɔːrd/ *n* a usu. black cap with a flat square top, worn formerly by schoolteachers and still worn by members of some universities on formal occasions. Teachers in **CARTOONS** are often shown wearing mortarboards.

Morte d'Ar-thur /,mɔːt 'dɑːθə/ || ,mɔːrt 'dɑːr-/ *Le* the death of Arthur; a work of literature written by Sir Thomas Malory in 1485 about King Arthur

mort-gage¹ /'mɔːgɪdʒ/ || 'mɔːr-/ *n* **1** an agreement to borrow money, esp. so as to buy a house, and pay interest on it to the lender over a period of years: *My mortgage is with a small building society.* | *to take out* (=start to have) *a mortgage* **2** the amount lent on a mortgage: *a mortgage of £23,000* **3** the amount of interest paid on a mortgage: *He's having a lot of trouble paying his mortgage every month.* | *Mortgage rates are going up again.*

mortgage² *v* [T] to give someone the right to the ownership of (a house, land, etc.) in return for money lent for a certain period: *His business is failing; he's mortgaged all his assets to try to save it.*

mort-gag-ee /,mɔːgə'dʒiː/ || ,mɔːr-/ *n* *tech* a person who lends money in return for the right to own the borrower's property

mortgage re-pos-ses-sion /'..-/ *n* the situation in which a house bought on a mortgage¹ (1) is taken back by a bank or BUILDING SOCIETY because the person buying it has not paid the interest on the money they borrowed: *The number of mortgage repossessions increased sharply when the interest rate went up.*

mort-ga-gor /'mɔːgɪdʒə/ || 'mɔːr-/ *n* *tech* a person who borrows money from a mortgagee

mor-ti-cian /mɔː'tɪʃən/ || ,mɔːr-/ *n* *AmE* for **UNDERTAKER**

mor-ti-fy /'mɔːtɪfaɪ/ || 'mɔːr-/ *v* [T] **1** [usu. pass.] to hurt (a person's) feelings, causing shame or deep embarrassment: *I was somewhat mortified to be told that I was too old to join.* **2** to control natural human desires of (one-self or the body) by self-punishment: *Hermits of the Middle Ages rejected all the comforts of life, intent on mortifying the flesh.* —**fi-cation** /,mɔːtɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ || ,mɔːr-/ *n* [U]: *He discovered, to his mortification, that his son knew more about the subject than he did.* | *mortification of the flesh*

mor-tise /'mɔːtɪs/ || 'mɔːr-/ *n* *tech* a hole cut in a piece of wood or stone to receive the **TENON** (=the shaped end) of another piece, and form a joint

mortise lock /'..-/ *n* a lock that fits into a hole cut in the edge of a door

Mor-ton /'mɔːtn/ || 'mɔːr-/ *Jelly Roll* (1885–1941) an American JAZZ piano player, bandleader, and writer of music who helped to develop New Orleans jazz

mor-tu-a-ry¹ /'mɔːtfuəri/ || 'mɔːrtfuəri/ *n* **1** a building or room where a dead body is kept until the time of the funeral **2** *AmE* **FUNERAL HOME**

mortuary² *adj* [A] *tech* connected with death or funerals: *a mortuary urn*

mo-sa-ic /mɔː'zeɪ-ɪk/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a piece of decorative work produced by) the fitting together of small pieces of coloured stone, glass, etc., so as to form a pattern or picture **2** [C (of) usu. sing.] a number of small things seen together that seem to form a

mosaic



a mosaic of a fish

pattern: *The forest floor was a mosaic of autumnal colours.*

Mosaic *adj* of Moses: *Mosaic law*

Mosaic Law /ˌmɔːsɪk ˈlɔː/ also **Law of Moses**— *n* [U] the rules and laws of the first five books of the Bible (the **PENTATEUCH**), believed to have been given by Moses

Moscow /ˈmɒskəʊ/ ˈmɑːskəʊ, -kəʊ/ the capital of the former USSR since 1918, which contains the Kremlin and is the political, **COMMERCIAL**, and industrial centre of the country

mo-selle /məʊˈzel/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) a type of light German white wine originally made in the valley of the Moselle river

Moselle [the] a river which rises in E France and forms the border between Luxembourg and Germany before joining the Rhine at Koblenz in Germany

Mo-ses /ˈməʊzɪz/ a leader of the Jewish people in ancient times. According to the story in the Bible, he brought the Israelites out of Egypt. They were able to escape from the Egyptians when God parted (**PART**² (2)) the Red Sea so that they could walk across the sea bed. Moses received the **TEN COMMANDMENTS** (=God's laws) from God on Mount Sinai. —see colour picture on page 424

Moses basket /ˈmɔːs ˈbæskɪt/ *n* **BrE** a **CRADLE** with handles in which a baby can sleep and be carried, usu. a type of basket (from the Bible story in which Moses, as a baby, was left in a basket beside the river Nile)

Moses basket



mo-sey /ˈməʊzi/ *v* [**I+adv/prep**] *AmE infml* to walk in an unhurried way: *It's getting late; we'd better mosey along.*

Mos-lem /ˈmɒzləm/ ˈmɑːz-/ *n*, *adj* Muslim

Mos-ley /ˈməʊzli/, **Sir Oswald** (1896–1980) a British **RIGHT-WING** politician who set up the British Union of Fascists. He was an MP from 1918 to 1931.

mosque /mɒsk/ ˈmɑːsk/ *n* a building in which Muslims worship

mos-qui-to /məˈskɪtəʊ/ *n* -toes or -tos a small flying insect, found esp. in hot countries, that sucks the blood of people and animals. A particular sort of mosquito can pass the illness **MALARIA** in this way. —see picture at **INSECT**

mosquito net /ˈmɒskɪtəʊ ˈnet/ *n* a net placed over a bed as a protection against mosquitoes, esp. in hot countries

moss /mɒs/ ˈmɔːs/ *n* [U] a small flat green or yellow flowerless plant that grows in a thick furry mass on wet soil, or on a wet surface such as a rock —compare **LICHEN**

Moss, Stirling (1929–) a famous British racing driver who won 16 Grand Prix races and many other events in the 1950s and 1960s and is considered by many British people to be the best racing driver ever: *He thinks he's Stirling Moss.* (=he drives very fast like a racing driver)

Moss Bros /ˈmɒs brɒs/ ˈmɔːs brɒs/ *tdmk* a shop in London, with branches around Britain, which sells men's clothing but is best known for hiring out suits, such as **MORNING DRESS** or **DINNER JACKETS**, for formal occasions

moss-grown /ˈmɒs ɡrəʊn/ *adj* covered with moss

Moss Side /ˈmɒs saɪd/ a poor area of central Manchester

moss-y /ˈmɒsi/ ˈmɔːsi/ *adj* **1** covered with moss: *a mossy bank* **2** like moss: *mossy green*

most¹ /məʊst/ *adv* **1** (used for forming the **SUPERLATIVE** of most adjectives and adverbs with more than two **SYLLABLES**, and of many that have only two): *the most comfortable hotel in this town* | *Which question did you think was most difficult?* | *All the girls are good at English, but Sue speaks it (the) most fluently.* —opposite **least** **2** to the greatest degree; more than anything else: *What annoyed me most was the way he laughed at me.* | *Geography is interesting, and English, but I like history most of all.* —opposite **least** **3 fml** very: *It's most kind of you!* | *a most enjoyable party* | *I shall most certainly attend the meeting.* | *He'll most probably sell the house.* —see **USAGE** **4**

dial or AmE infml almost: *He plays cards most every evening.*

▷ **USAGE** **Most** can be used with the meaning “very” only before adjectives and adverbs that express the speaker's personal feeling or opinion. Compare *a most beautiful woman* | *a most amazing coincidence* | *Most certainly I can do it* and *a very tall woman* | *I can do it very quickly.* ◁

most² *determiner, pron* (*superlative of many, much*) **1** [(of)] nearly all: *Most people take their holidays in the summer.* | *He spends most of his time travelling.* **2** [(the)] greatest in number or quantity: *The storm did (the) most damage to the houses on the cliff.* (=it damaged them more than any other houses) | *I didn't have any money to give him: the most I could do was offer him my support.* **3 at (the) most** not more than; if not less: *She's 25 years old, at most.* | *The repairs will cost £35, at the very most.* —compare **at (the) least** (**LEAST**²) **4 for the 'most part** almost completely; mainly: *Summers in the south of France are for the most part dry and sunny.* **5 make the most of** to get the best advantage from: *We've only got one day in London, so let's make the most of it and see everything.*

-**most** see **WORD FORMATION**

most-fa-voured-na-tion sta-tus /ˌmɔːst ˈfɑːvəd ˈneɪʃən ˈstætəs/ *n* [U] an arrangement which forms part of a trade agreement between several countries. A country which has signed the agreement is allowed to have any **TARIFF** reductions which may have been arranged between a country in the agreement and another country outside the agreement.

most-ly /ˈməʊstli/ *adv* mainly; in most cases or most of the time: *She uses her car mostly for driving to work.* | *He has the occasional cigarette, but mostly he smokes a pipe.*

MOT /ˌem əʊ ˈtiː/ *n infml* (in Britain) a regular official examination of cars more than three years old, carried out to make sure that they are in a good enough condition to be driven. In Britain it is illegal to drive a car which has not passed its MOT: *My car's failed its MOT (test).*

mote /məʊt/ *n esp. lit* a very small piece or grain, esp. of dust

mo-tel /məʊˈtel/ also **motor lodge** *AmE*— *n* a hotel for travelling motorists, usu. on a single level with space for a car near each room

mo-tet /məʊˈtet/ *n* a piece of church music for singers only

moth /mɒθ/ ˈmɔːθ/ *n* **1** [C] an insect related to the **BUTTERFLY** but usu. not so brightly coloured, that flies mainly at night and is attracted by lights —see picture at **INSECT** **2 [the]** *BrE* the presence of young moths (**clothes moths**) in clothes, where they eat wool, fur, etc.

moth-ball /ˈmɒθbɔːl/ ˈmɔːθ-/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] **1** a small ball made of a strong-smelling chemical, used for keeping moths away from clothes **2 in mothballs** stored and not used: *With the end of the Cold War several warships were put into mothballs.*

moth-eat-en /ˈmɒθ ˌeɪt ɪn/ *adj* **1** (of cloth) destroyed, or partly destroyed, by moths: *You're not going to wear that moth-eaten sweater!* **2** very worn out: *a moth-eaten old sofa* **3 derog** no longer modern: *his moth-eaten ideas*

moth-er¹ /ˈmʌðə/ *n* **1** [C] a female parent of a child or animal: *His mother and father are both doctors.* | *Can I borrow your car, please, mother?* | *We'd better ask (our) mother first.* | *a mother hen and her chicks* | *a mother-of-two* (=having two children) —see **FATHER (USAGE)** **2 be told/learn something at one's mother's knee** to learn something when one is very young **3 every mother's son** *lit* every man with none left out —see also **NECESSITY is the mother of invention** (**NECESSITY**) —~ *less adj*

mother² *v* [T] *sometimes derog* to care for or protect (someone) like a mother: *The old man mothered his beloved pigeons.* | *Tom's wife mothers him dreadfully.* —see also **MOTHER'S BOY**

Mother *n* **1** (a title of respect for the female head of a **CONVENT**) —see also **MOTHER SUPERIOR** **2 infml** (used esp. by a man, when speaking to an old woman): *Come along now, Mother, get into the ambulance.*

mother and tod-dler group /ˌmʌðə ˈtɒdlər ɡrʊp/ *n* in Britain, a regular informal meeting for mothers with very young children. The mothers can sit and talk together while the children play with toys.

Moth-er-care /ˈmʌθəkeə/ ˈθər-/ *n tdmk* a British chain of stores which sells equipment, clothes, and toys for babies

and young children and clothes for PREGNANT women. Mothercare is extremely successful and is the best-known shop in Britain for babies' clothes etc.

mother coun·try /'mʌðə'kʌntri/ also **motherland**—*n* [(the)] **1** the country of one's birth; one's NATIVE land **2** the country from which a group of settlers in another part of the world originally came: *Some Australians still regard Britain as the|their mother country.*

Mother Earth /'mʌðə'ɜːθ/ the soil, or the Earth in general, seen as the mother of all living things: *The astronauts said they were glad to be back on Mother Earth.* | *Mother Earth will provide for all our needs.*

Mother Goose /'mʌðə'gʊːs/ *AmE* (the imaginary writer of) NURSERY RHYMES (old poems or songs for children): *If you're good I'll read you some Mother Goose before you go to bed.*

moth·er·hood /'mʌðə'hʊd/—*n* [U] the state of being a mother: *Motherhood doesn't suit her; she shouldn't have had children.*

Mother Hub·bard /'mʌðə'hʌbəd/—*n* **1** an old woman from a NURSERY RHYME (=old song or poem for children):

*Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard
to get her poor dog a bone.
But when she got there
the cupboard was bare,
and so the poor dog had none.*

2 a woman's long dress, worn without a belt

Mothering Sun·day /'mʌðə'ɪŋ'sʌndi/ *n* MOTHER'S DAY

mother-in-law /'mʌðə'ɪnlɔː/ *n* **mothers-in-law**, **mother-in-laws** the mother of a person's husband or wife

► **CULTURAL NOTE** People often make jokes about mothers-in-law, because they are thought to give advice when it is not wanted and to always find fault with their SON-IN-LAW or DAUGHTER-IN-LAW. ◀

moth·er·land /'mʌðə'lænd/—*n* see MOTHER COUNTRY

moth·er·ly /'mʌðəli/—*adj* like or typical of a good mother: *a motherly old teacher* | *a motherly kiss* — compare MATERNAL — **liness** *n* [U]

Mother May I /'mʌðə'maɪ/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE* a game played by children in which the leader does not face the other players but allows them to move towards the finish line when they ask to. If the leader catches players moving when he/she has not given permission, those players must begin at the starting line again: *"Mother may I take three giant steps?" "Yes you may."*

Mother Na·ture /'mʌðə'nætʃə/ *often humor* NATURE seen as a force that controls the world and *esp.* the living things in it: *Cats are Mother Nature's way of limiting the number of mice.*

Mother of God /'mʌðə'ɒf'ɡɒd/ Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic Church

mother-of-pearl /'mʌðə'ɒf'piːəl/ also **nacre**—*n* [U] a hard smooth shiny pale variously coloured substance inside the shell of certain SHELLFISH, used for making decorative articles: *a mother-of-pearl brooch*

mother's boy /'mʌðə'sbɔɪ/ *BrE* || **mama's boy** *AmE*—*n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml derog* a boy, or *esp.* a man, who allows his mother to protect him too much and is therefore considered weak

Mother's Day /'mʌðə'sdeɪ/ *n* [C;U] a particular Sunday, in Britain the fourth Sunday in Lent, and in the US the second Sunday in May, on which people give cards and/or presents to their mothers to show their love for them — compare FATHER'S DAY

mother's help /'mʌðə'shel/ *n* a person, *usu.* a woman, who helps a mother with small children to do housework, and may also look after the children for short periods of time

mother ship /'mʌðə'shɪp/ *n* a large ship travelling on the sea or in space, from which smaller boats or ships are sent out to fish, EXPLORE, etc., and to which they return

Mother Ship·ton /'mʌðə'shɪptən/—*n* an old woman said to have been a WITCH from Yorkshire, England, who could tell the future and supposedly foretold (FORETELL) the Great Fire of London, although not everyone believes this

mother's ru·in /'mʌðə'sruːn/ *n* [U] *old-fash humor, esp. BrE* for GIN

Mothers' U·nion /'mʌðəz'juːn/ [*the*] a society of Christian women, set up by the Church of England, with the aim of support-

ing marriage, family life, and Christian values

mother su·pe·ri·or /'mʌðə'suːpəriːər/ *n* (*usu. caps.*) the female head of a CONVENT (=a religious group of women)

Mother Te·re·sa /'mʌðə'teərə/ (1910–) a Roman Catholic NUN, born **Agnes Gouxha Bojaxhin** in Yugoslavia of Albanian parents and now a citizen of India, who works to help the poor and the sick, *esp.* in India. She started the Society of the Missionaries of Charity, now an international organization, and won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1979.

Mother Teresa



mother-to-be /'mʌðə'tuːbi/ *n* **mothers-to-be** a PREGNANT woman

mother tongue /'mʌðə'tʌŋ/ *n* the language which one first learned to speak (and which one mainly speaks): *Yes, he speaks French excellently, but his mother tongue is actually Greek.*

moth·proof /'mʌθpruːf/—*adj* (of cloth, floor coverings, etc.) chemically treated against damage by MOTHS — **mothproof** *v* [T]

mo·tif /məʊ'tɪf/ also **motive**—*n* **1** a main subject, pattern, idea, etc., on which a work of art is based, or from which it is developed **2** a single or repeated pattern or colour: *a cat motif on the child's pyjamas* **3** an often-repeated arrangement of notes in a musical work — compare LEITMOTIV

mo·tion¹ /'məʊʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act, way, or process of moving: *The gentle rolling motion of the ship made me feel sleepy.* | *Parts of the film were shown again in slow motion.* (=the movements appearing slower than in real life) **2** [C] a single or particular movement or way of moving: *With a motion of his hand he summoned the waiter.* **3** [C] a suggestion formally made at a meeting: *His motion was rejected.* [+to-*v*] *The motion to increase the club's membership charges was carried/defeated by 15 votes to 10.* [+that] *The committee passed a motion that the bar should remain open until midnight.* — see also MOVE¹ (7) **4** [C] *esp. BrE fml* an act of emptying the bowels: *The doctor asked if the child's motions were regular.* **5 go through the motions** *infml* to do something without care and interest, and only because one has to do it: *The doctor was sure the man wasn't really ill, but he went through the motions of examining him.* **6 put/set something in motion** to start a machine or a process: *Pull this handle to set the machine in motion.* | *If we're all agreed, we can put the plans in motion straight away.* — see also TIME-AND-MOTION

motion² *v* **1** [I (to, at)] to signal with a movement, *usu.* with the hand: *She motioned to the waiter.* **2** [T+obj+to-*v*/adv/prep] to direct (someone) with a movement, *usu.* with the hand: *He opened the door and motioned me to come in/motioned me into the room.*

mo·tion·less /'məʊʃənləs/ *adj* without any movement; completely still: *The cat remained motionless, waiting for the mouse to come out of its hole.* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

motion pic·ture /'məʊʃən'pɪktʃə/ *n* *AmE* a cinema film — *adj*: the motion picture industry

motion sick·ness /'məʊʃən'sɪknəs/ *n* [U] *AmE* for TRAVEL SICKNESS

mo·ti·vate /'məʊtɪveɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to provide (someone) with a (strong) reason for doing something: *He was motivated by love, and expected nothing in return.* | *We've got to try and motivate our salesmen.* (=make them try harder to sell things) [+obj+to-*v*] *There is little to motivate these kids to work hard at school.* **2** [often pass.] to be the reason why (something) is done: *This murder was motivated by hatred.*

mo·ti·va·tion /'məʊtɪ'veɪʃən/ *n* [U] the state of being motivated; need or purpose: *The stronger the motivation, the more quickly a person will learn a foreign language.* [+to-*v*] *His parents give him so much money that he's got no motivation to get a job.*

mo·tive¹ /'məʊtɪv/ *n* a reason for action; that which urges a person to act in a certain way: *Jealousy was the motive for the murder/the murder motive.* | *What do you think his motives were in helping us?* | *We had begun to suspect his*

motives. (=to think that he had acted for bad reasons) –
~ *less* *adj*

motive² *adj* [A] *tech* or *fml* (of power, force, etc.) causing movement or action: *The wind provides the motive power that turns this wheel.* | *I think his wife was the motive force behind his resignation.* (=she made him leave his job)

mot juste /,məʊ 'zu:st/ *n* **mots justes** (same pronunciation) [(the)] *Fr* exactly the right word or phrase

motley¹ /'mɒtli/ 'ma:tlɪ/ *adj* **1** *derog* of many different kinds: *His friends were a motley crew.* | *a motley collection of books on the shelf* **2** [A] *lit* (esp. of a garment) of different mixed colours, like the clothes worn by a JESTER

motley² *n* [U] *lit* or *tech* the clothes worn by a JESTER

mo-to-cross /'məʊtəʊkrɒs/ -krɒs/ *n* [U] the sport of racing on motorcycles over a rough country track including steep hills, streams, etc.

mo-tor¹ /'məʊtə/ *n* **1** a machine that changes power, esp. electrical power, into movement, and is used for working other machines: *This lawn mower is driven by a small electric motor.* –see MACHINE¹ (USAGE) **2** *BrE infml* a car

motor² *adj* [A] **1** driven by an engine: *a motorboat* | *a motor scooter* | *a motor mower* **2** *esp. BrE* of or for cars or other vehicles driven by an engine, esp. those used on roads: *the motor industry/trade* | *a motor accident* | *motor racing* | *a motor magazine* **3** *tech* of or being a nerve that causes a muscle to move: *impaired motor functions*

motor³ *v* [I+adv/prep] *esp. BrE* becoming rare to travel by car, esp. for pleasure: *We motored over to Cambridge to see some friends.* – ~ *ing* *n* [U]: *to go motoring in France* | *a motoring correspondent*

Mo-to-rail /'məʊtəreɪl/ *tdmk* a way of travelling by railway in which a passenger train also carries the passengers' cars

mo-tor-bike /'məʊtəbaɪk/ -tər-/ *n* **1** *BrE infml* a motorcycle **2** *AmE* a small light motorcycle –see TRANSPORT (USAGE)

mo-tor-boat /'məʊtəbəʊt/ -tər-/ *n* a boat, esp. a fast one, driven by an engine

mo-tor-cade /'məʊtəkeɪd/ -tər-/ *n* a procession of cars and other motor vehicles, esp. one in which an important person is travelling: *the president's motorcade*

mo-tor-car /'məʊtəka:ɾ/ -tər-/ *n* *BrE fml* a car

motor car-a-van /'... / *BrE* || **motor home** *AmE* – *n* *BrE* a large vehicle usu. used for holidays, which has beds, a table, and a kitchen area in the back

mo-tor-cy-cle /'məʊtəsaɪkəl/ -tər-/ *n* a large heavy bicycle driven by an engine –see TRANSPORT (USAGE) –-**clist** *n*

mo-tor-ing /'məʊtərɪŋ/ *n* [U] see MOTOR³

mo-tor-ist /'məʊtərɪst/ *n* a person who drives a car – compare PEDESTRIAN¹

mo-tor-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'məʊtəraɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to provide (a vehicle) with a motor **2** to provide (soldiers, an army, etc.) with motor vehicles

motor lodge /'... / *n* *AmE* a MOTEL

mo-tor-man /'məʊtəmæn/ -tər-/ *n* **-men** /men/ a driver of a vehicle driven by a motor, esp. an electric train

mo-tor-mouth /'məʊtəmaʊθ/ -tər-/ *n* *AmE infml derog* a person who talks too much and too loudly

motor rac-ing /'... / *n* [U] the sport of racing fast cars on special courses, usu. outdoors –see also GRAND PRIX, STOCK CAR

motor scoot-er /'... / also **scooter** – *n* a low vehicle with two small wheels, an enclosed engine, and usu. a wide curved part at the front to protect the legs

Motor Show /'... / [the] an international show of new models of car, held every two years in Britain at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham

motor ve-hi-cle /'... / *n* an official word for a vehicle which is powered by a motor, esp. an INTERNAL-COMBUSTION engine: *This road is closed to motor vehicles.* (=is open to people on foot or on bicycles)

mo-tor-way /'məʊtəweɪ/ -tər-/ *BrE* || **freeway** *AmE* – *n* a very wide road built for fast long-distance travel: *The M1 is one of the longest motorways in Britain.* –see also EXPRESSWAY (USAGE)

motorway mad-ness /'... / *n* [U] *BrE* a dangerous situation in which people drive too fast or too close to other

cars on a motorway in bad weather conditions, esp. FOG: *Ten die in motorway madness.*

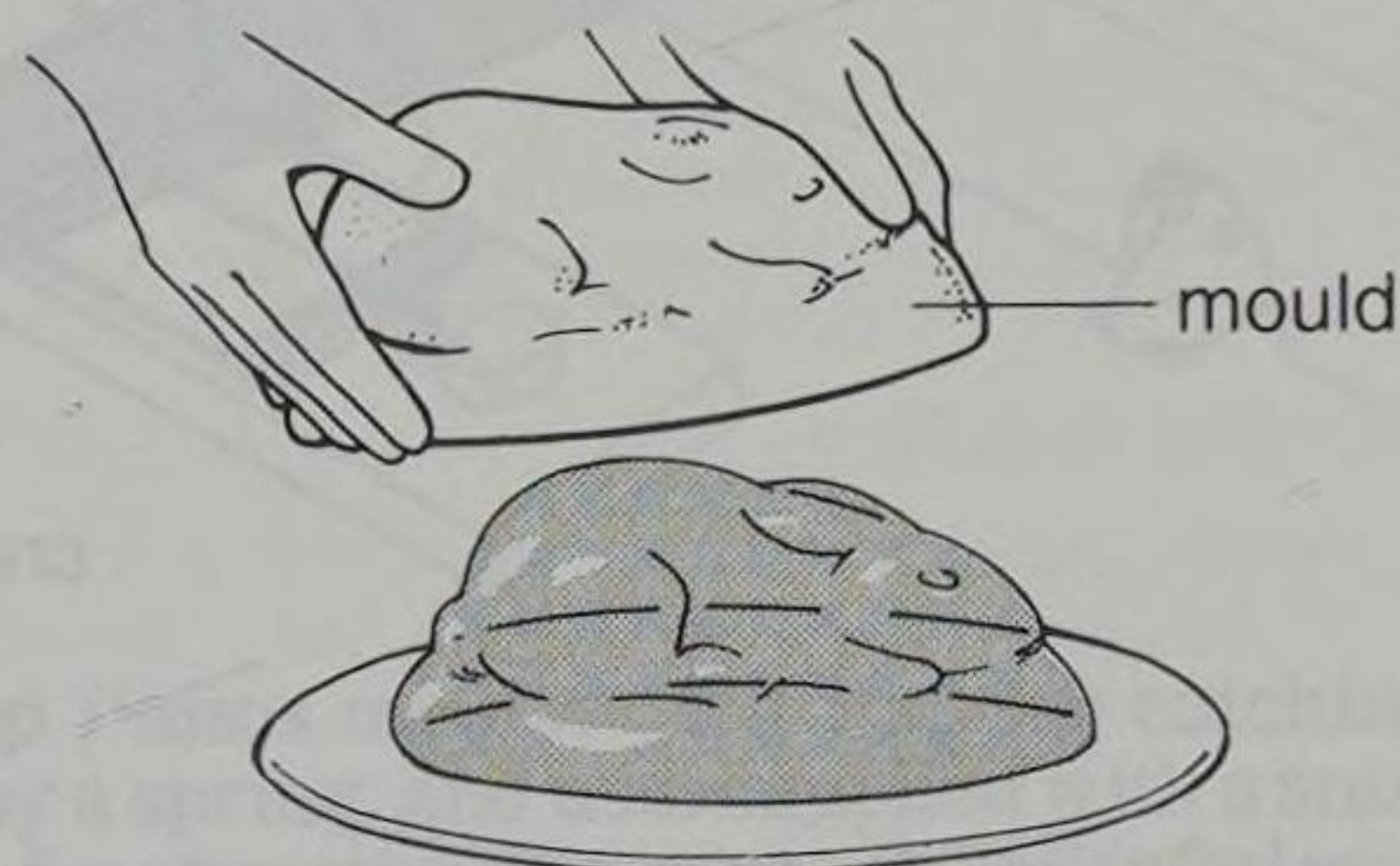
Mo-town /'məʊtaʊn/ *tdmk* **1** an American popular music record company based in Detroit **2** [U] a style of popular music connected with singers and groups recorded by the Motown company, esp. those who became successful in the 1960s and 1970s, e.g. Marvin Gaye, the Supremes, and Smokey Robinson the Miracles

mot-tled /'mɒtld/ 'ma:z-/ *adj* having irregularly-shaped different-coloured markings: *mottled skin*

mot-to /'mɒtəʊ/ 'ma:z-/ *n* **-tos** or **-toes** **1** a short sentence or a few words taken as the guiding principle of a person, of a school, etc.: *"Waste not, want not" was my mother's motto.* | *a school motto* –compare SLOGAN **2** *esp. BrE* an amusing or clever short printed phrase put esp. inside a CHRISTMAS CRACKER **3** a few words, or a short musical phrase, placed at the beginning of a book, or of a piece of music

mould¹ || also **mold** *AmE* /məʊld/ *n* [U] **1** a soft greenish growth on bread, cheese, etc., that has been kept too long, or on objects that have been left for a long time in warm wet air **2** (often in comb.) loose soft soil full of decayed plant substances: *He planted the seeds in a box filled with leaf mould.*

mould



mould² || also **mold** *AmE* – *n* **1** a hollow container of a particular shape, into which some soft substance is poured, so that when the substance becomes cool or hard, it takes this shape: *a jelly mould shaped like a rabbit* | *a candle mould* **2** *lit* a person's character or type: *We need to recruit more men of his mould.*

mould³ also **mold** *AmE* – *v* [T] **1** to make out of a material by changing its shape: *These huge presses mould the car bodies.* | *a figure of a man moulded in/out of clay* | (fig.) *His character has been moulded more by his experiences in life than by his education.* **2** to fit closely to the shape of something, esp. a body: *Her wet dress was moulded to her body.*

moul-der || also **molder** *AmE* /'məʊldə/ *v* [I (AWAY)] often *lit* to decay slowly: *the mouldering walls of an ancient ruin* | (fig.) *The plans mouldered away in a forgotten corner of the office.* (=they were never put into practice)

mould-ing || also **molding** *AmE* /'məʊldɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C;U] a decorative band of stone or wood round the edge of a wall, a piece of furniture, a picture frame, etc. **2** [C] an object, such as a piece of plastic, produced from a MOULD²

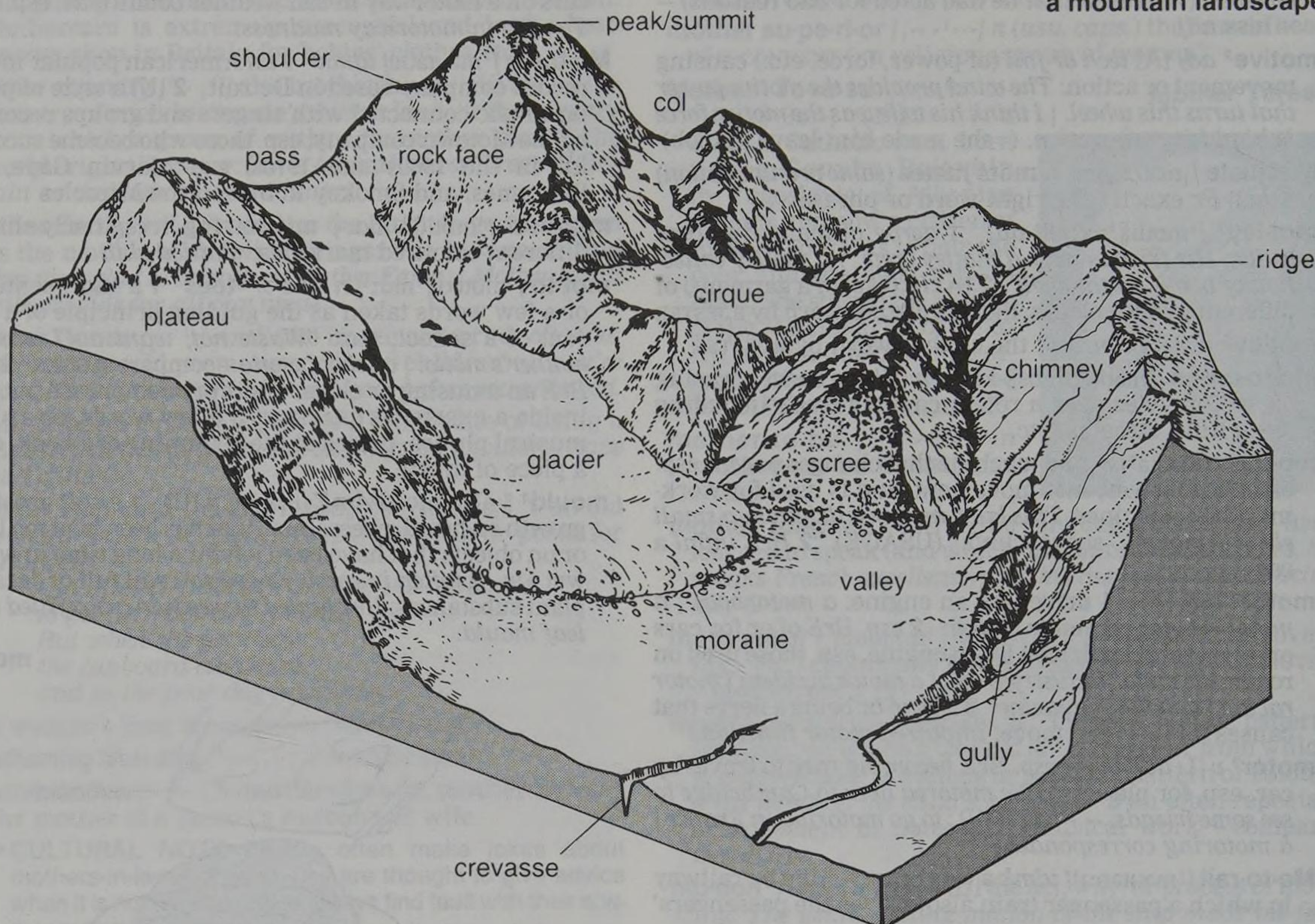
mould-y || also **moldy** *AmE* /'məʊldi/ *adj* **1** of or covered with MOULD¹: *mouldy cheese* | *a mouldy smell inside the cupboard* **2** *BrE sl* of little value; unpleasant: *Our mouldy old uncle won't let us play in his garden.* | *Only a mouldy five pounds for all that work?* **3** *AmE* out of date; OBSOLETE; no longer interesting or useful: *That radio station only plays oldy but moldies.* (=old songs no longer appreciated) –**-iness** *n* [U]

Mou-lin Rouge /,mu:læŋ 'ru:ʒ/ [the] a CABARET in Paris, famous esp. in the late 19th century but still popular today, esp. with tourists

moult¹ || also **molt** *AmE* /məʊlt/ *v* [I;T] (of a bird or animal) to lose or throw off (most of its feathers, hair, or fur) at the season when a new covering for the body grows

moult² || also **molt** *AmE* – *n* [C;U] the process or time of moulting

mound /maʊnd/ *n* [(of)] **1** a pile of earth, stones, etc., often one built in ancient times as a defence or over a grave; small hill: *a burial mound* **2** a large pile: *a mound of papers on my desk* **3** the small hill on which the PITCHER in the game of BASEBALL stands: *Lasorda walked slowly out to the mound to talk to the pitcher.* –see picture at BASEBALL



mount¹ /maʊnt/ *v* **1** [I;T] *rather fml* to get on (a horse, a bicycle, etc.): *The soldiers stood beside their horses, waiting for the order to mount.* | *He mounted his bicycle and rode away.* —opposite **dismount** **2** [T (on)] to provide (someone) with something to ride on, esp. a horse: *The soldiers were mounted on (=rode) fine black horses.* | *the mounted police* **3** [I (UP)] to rise in level or increase in amount: *Tension mounted as we waited for the decision.* | *Their debts continued to mount up.* **4** [T] to prepare and produce (an attack): *The opposition is getting ready to mount a powerful attack on the government.* | *They have too weak a team to mount a realistic challenge for the championship.* **5** [I (to);T] *fml* to go up; climb: *The old lady mounted the stairs with difficulty.* **6** [T] to fix on a support or in a frame: *The dead insect was mounted on a card by means of a pin.* **7** [T] *tech* (of a male animal, esp. a large one) to get up on (a female animal) in order to breed **8 mount guard (over)** to guard, esp. as a military duty **9 mount the throne** *fml* to become king, queen, etc.

mount² *n* **1** something on which or in which a thing is fixed and supported: *A silver cup on a wooden mount was presented to the winner.* **2** an animal on which one rides: *This old donkey is a good quiet mount for a child.*

mount³ *n* *old use, or (cap.) as part of a name* a mountain: *Mount Teide, Tenerife*

moun-tain /'maʊntən/ *n* **1** a very high hill, usu. of bare or snow-covered rock: *He looked down from the top of the mountain to the valley far below.* | *a mountain chain/range* (=line of mountains) | *the mountain peaks* **2** [(of)] also **mountains** *pl.* — a very large amount: *mountains/a mountain of dirty clothes to wash* **3** *BrE* (usu. in comb.) a very large amount (of a food) that is stored to prevent prices falling: *the European Community's butter mountain* —compare **LAKE**¹ **(2)** **4 make a mountain out of a molehill** to make a matter or problem seem much more important or difficult than it really is

mountain bike /'maʊntən baɪk/ also **mountain bi-cycle** /'maʊntən baɪsɪk/ — *n* a strong bicycle with many GEARS, large wheels



with wide tyres, and powerful BRAKES, which is used esp. on rough and hilly ground. Mountain bikes became very fashionable in the late 1980s and were bought by many people who only ever rode them in towns.

Mountain Day-light Time /'maʊntən daɪ laɪt taɪm/ (abbrev. **MDT**) the time used in the summer months in the Mountain Time Zone of the US

moun-tain-er /'maʊntənɪə/ *n* a person who climbs mountains as a sport or profession — **ing** *n* [U]

mountain li-on /'maʊntən laɪən/ *n* a COUGAR

moun-tain-ous /'maʊntənəs/ *adj* **1** full of mountains: *mountainous country* **2** very large or high: *mountainous waves*

moun-tain res-cue /'maʊntən reskjuː/ *n* an attempt to find help, or save people lost or hurt while in the mountains: *A mountain rescue team has been sent out to find the missing climbers.*

moun-tain-side /'maʊntən saɪd/ *n* [usu. sing.] the slope of a mountain: *The great rocks rolled down the mountainside.*

Mountain Stan-dard Time /'maʊntən stændəd taɪm/ (abbrev. **MST**) the time used from autumn to spring in the Rocky Mountain area of N America (the **Mountain Time Zone**)

moun-tain-top /'maʊntən tɒp/ — *taɪp* *n* the top of a mountain —see also **PEAK**, **SUMMIT**

Mount Ar-a-rat /maʊnt 'ærəræt/ see **ARARAT**

Mount-bat-ten /maʊnt 'bætn/, **Louis** (1900–79) an English ADMIRAL and STATESMAN, also known as **Prince Louis of Battenburg**, **Earl Mountbatten of Burma**. He was descended from Queen Victoria, led the Allies in Burma in the Second World War, and was the last British VICE-ROY. He was killed by an IRA bomb.

moun-te-bank /'maʊntəbæŋk/ *n* *lit derog* a dishonest, dishonourable, or deceiving man

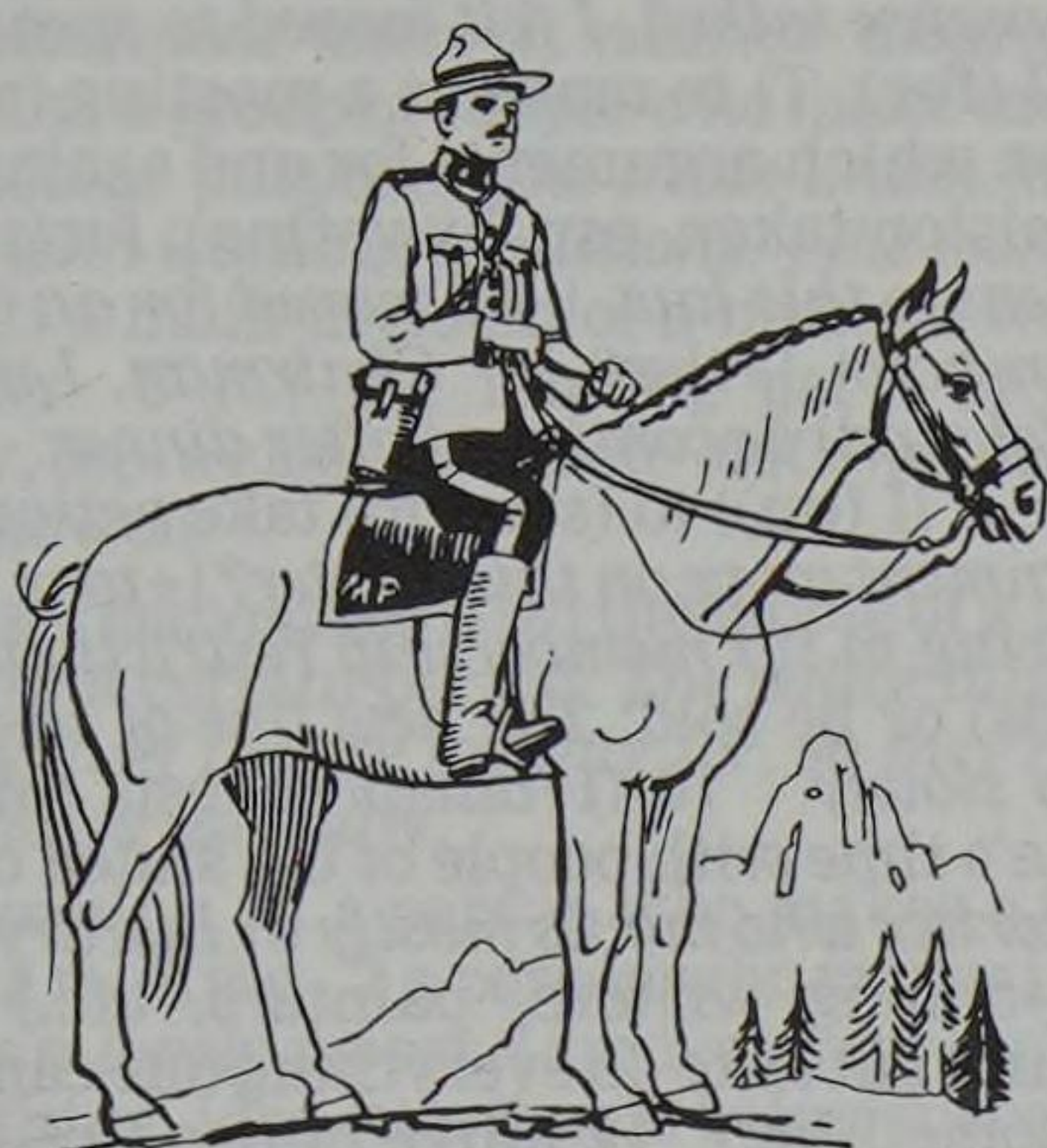
Mount Etna see **ETNA**

Mount Everest see **EVEREST**¹

Mount God-win Aus-ten /maʊnt ɡɒdwɪn 'ɒstən/ — *ɡɑːdwɪn* 'ɒs-/ see **K2**, see picture on page 869

Mount-ie /'maʊnti/ *n* *infml* a member of a special Canadian police force (the **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**) which often works on horseback. They wear bright red JACKETS and ride black horses, and are often regarded as one of the SYMBOLS of Canada. It is said that they "always get their man" (=always catch the man they are chasing).

Mountie



mount-ing /'maʊntɪŋ/ *n* a fixed object to which other things, esp. parts of a machine, are fastened, and which keeps them in place: *The winch broke loose from its mountings.* | *The car's engine is supported by four rubberized mountings.*

Mount Kil-i-man-ja-ro /maʊnt 'kɪlɪmən'dʒɑ:rəʊ/ see KILIMANJARO

Mount Mc-Kin-ley /'maʊnt mə'kɪnli/ also **Denali** a mountain in **Mount McKinley National Park** in central Alaska which is the highest point in North America

Mount of Ol-ives /, . . ' . . / [the] a mountain RIDGE E of Jerusalem, mentioned in the Bible esp. as the place of Jesus Christ's Ascension

Mount Olympus see OLYMPUS¹

Mount Palomar see PALOMAR

Mount Rainier see RAINIER

Mount Saint Helens see ST HELENS

Mount Sinai see SINAI

Mount Ver-non /maʊnt 'vɜ:nən||-'vɜ:r-/ the home of George Washington between 1747 and 1799 and the place where he is buried. It is in NE Virginia, US and is now a MUSEUM.

Mount Vesuvius see VESUVIUS

mourn /mɔ:n||mɔ:rn/ *v* [I (for, over);T] to feel and/or show grief (for), esp. because of someone's death: *The old woman still mourns her son's death/mourns for her son.* | *We all mourn the passing of the steam train.* (=wish that they had not stopped being used)

mourn-er /'mɔ:nə||'mɔ:r-/ *n* a person who attends a funeral

mourn-ful /'mɔ:nfəl||'mɔ:rn-/ *adj* sometimes derog sad; causing, feeling, or expressing sorrow: *a mournful occasion* | *a mournful expression on her face* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

mourn-ing /'mɔ:nɪŋ||'mɔ:r-/ *n* [U] **1** (the expression of) grief, esp. for a death: *All the flags were at half-mast, as a sign of mourning for the dead president.* **2** the clothes, black in Britain and some other countries, worn to show grief at the death of someone: *The royal court went into mourning* (=started to wear black) *when the queen died.* | *a widow dressed in deep* (=complete) *mourning*

mouse

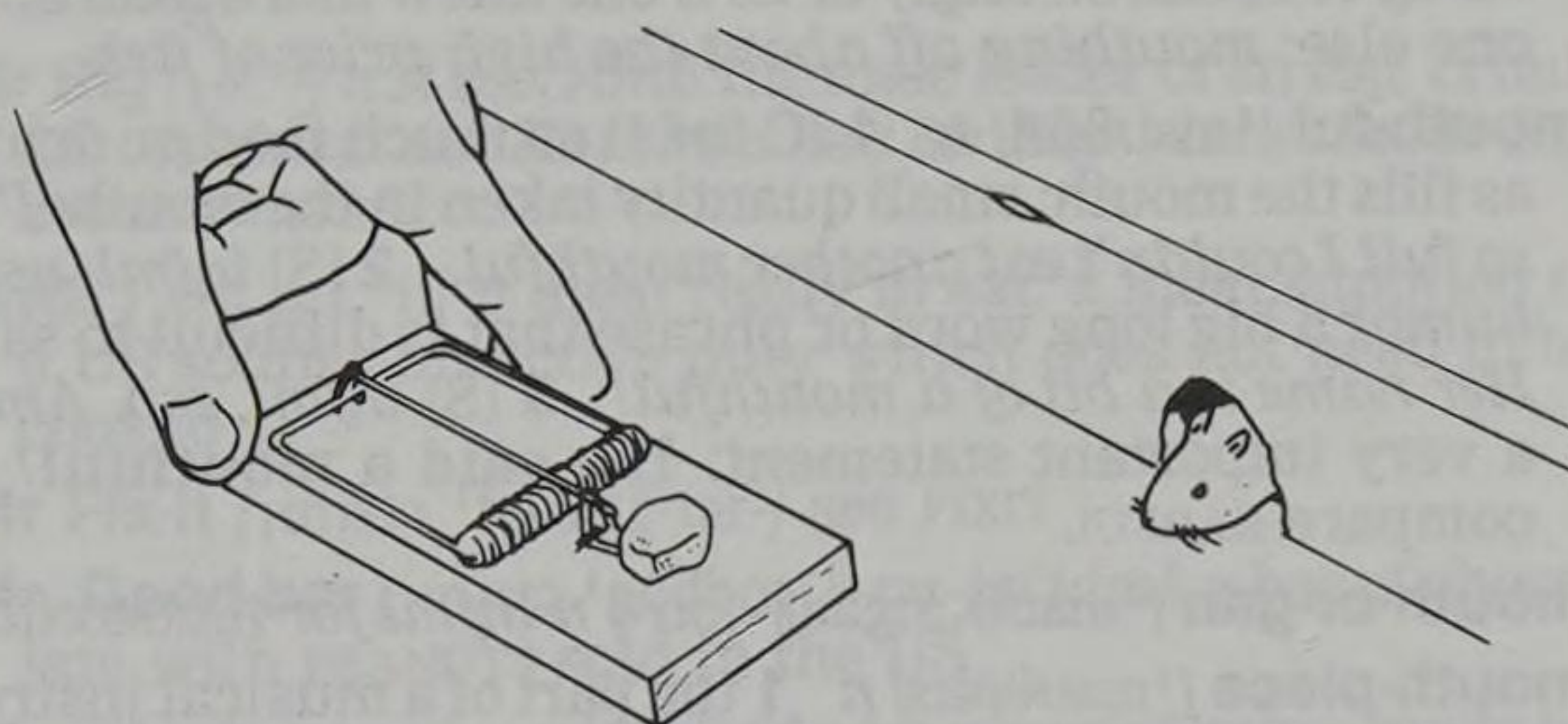
mouse /maʊs/ *n* **mice** /maɪs/ **1** (often in comb.) a small furry animal with a long tail that lives in houses and in fields, related to but smaller than a rat: *I think we've got mice in the kitchen.* | *The children were as quiet as mice.* (=very quiet) | *a field mouse* — see picture at RODENT

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Mice are thought of as being quiet, TIMID animals. They are thought to like cheese in particular, though they eat many different things, and are thought by some people to frighten elephants, though this has certainly not been proved. Women are supposed to be frightened of mice, and CARTOONS often show a woman standing on a chair to escape from a mouse. ◀

2 *infml* a quiet nervous fearful person, esp. a girl or woman **3** *tech, pl* **mouses** — a small box connected to a computer by a wire which, when moved by hand, causes a CURSOR to move around on a VDU so that choices can be made within the PROGRAM in use — see picture at COMPUTER; see also **play cat and mouse with** (CAT)

mous-er /'maʊsə||'n a cat that catches mice: *Our cat's a good mouser.*

mousetrap



mouse-trap /'maʊs-træp/ *n* **1** a trap for catching mice, worked by a spring, and usu. supplied with a small piece of cheese for attracting the mice **2** *BrE infml* mousetrap cheese

Mousetrap, The a play in London's WEST END which has been running continuously for longer than any other show in the world. It is a THRILLER by Agatha Christie, which opened in 1952 at the Ambassador Theatre, moved to St. Martin's Theatre in 1974, and has been performed over 16,000 times.

mousetrap cheese /, . . ' . . / *n* [U] *BrE infml* cheese which is cheap and of poor quality

Mous-kou-ri /mʊ:'skʊ:ri/, **Nan-a** /'nænə/ (1936–) an internationally-known Greek singer who sang freedom songs in other countries when Greece was ruled by a DICTATOR

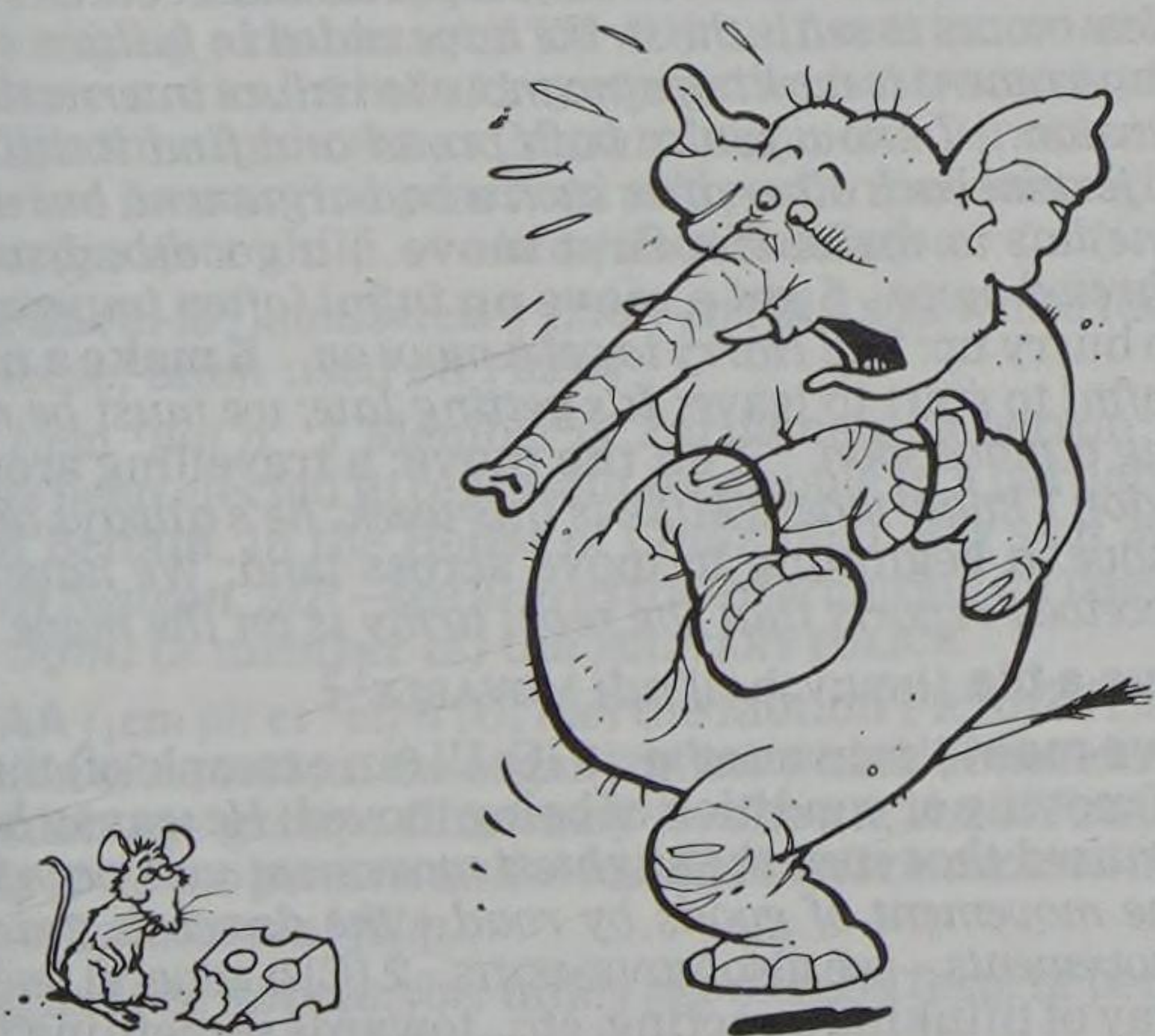
mous-sa-ka /mʊ:'sɑ:kə/ *n* [U] a Greek dish made from meat, cheese, and AUBERGINES

mousse /mʊ:s/ *n* **1** [C;U] (often in comb.) (a light usu. sweet dish made from) cream, eggs, and other substances mixed together and eaten cold: *chocolate mousse* **2** a FROTHY substance usu. sold in an AEROSOL and put on hair to thicken it or to hold it in a particular style

mous-tache || also **mustache** *AmE* /mə'staɪf||'mʌstæf/ *n* hair growing on the upper lip of a man: *He's shaved off his moustache.* — compare BEARD¹

mous-y, -ey /'maʊsi/ *adj* **1** often derog (of hair) having a dull brownish-grey colour **2** derog (of a person, esp. a girl or woman) unattractively plain and quiet; DRAB **3** *infml* of or like mice: *a mousy smell* —-iness *n* [U]

mouth¹ /maʊθ/ *n* **mou-ths** /maʊðz/ **1** a the opening on the face through which a person or animal can take food into the body, and speak or make sounds: *The dentist told him to open his mouth wide.* | *They've got eight children; that's an awful lot of mouths to feed!* | *What beautiful chocolates! They really make my mouth water!* (=I want to eat them very much.) **b** *infml* (in certain phrases) the mouth when thought of as being used for speaking and making sounds: *Don't tell him any secrets; he's got a big mouth.* (=he talks too much, and will tell someone) | *I just mentioned Jim's girlfriend to his wife — me and my big mouth!* (=I said something I should not have said) | *BrE* *Don't worry, he won't report you to the headmaster; he's all mouth.* (=he says he will do things but doesn't have the courage to actually do them) | *Don't believe what he says about all the girlfriends he's had — he's all mouth and trousers.* (=he claims to be very attractive sexually but this is not true) | *You can tell him anything; he knows how*



to keep his mouth shut. | *Shut your mouth, you fool!* (=stop talking) –see picture at **HEAD 2** an opening, entrance, or way out: *the mouth of a river* (=where it joins the sea) | *the mouth of a cave* **3** **down in the mouth** *infml* not cheerful; unhappy **4** **out of the mouths** (of **babes and sucklings**) a phrase from the Bible, used when a child has just said something sensible or wise **5** **-mouthed** /maʊðd, maʊθ/: **a** *usu. derog* having the stated way of speaking: *loudmouthed* | *foul-mouthed* **b** having the stated kind of mouth: *a wide-mouthed jar* –see also **put one's foot in one's mouth** (**FOOT**¹ (19)), **look a gift horse in the mouth** (**GIFT HORSE**), **from hand to mouth** (**HAND**¹), **(straight) from the horse's mouth** (**HORSE**¹), **put one's money where one's mouth is** (**MONEY**), **shoot one's mouth off** (**SHOOT**¹), **by word of mouth**, **put words into someone's mouth**, **take the words out of someone's mouth** (**WORD**¹)

mouth² /maʊð/ *v* **1** [T] to move one's lips as if saying (words) but without making any sound: *The actor mouthed the words of the recorded song.* **2** [T] to say esp. repeatedly and without understanding or sincerity: *mouthed platitudes* | *mouthed curses* **3** [I (OFF)] *infrm derog* to speak strongly or as if one knew more than anyone else: *mouthed off about the high price of fish*

mouth-ful /'maʊθfʊl/ *n* **1** [C (of)] as much food or drink as fills the mouth; small quantity taken in the mouth: *I'm so full I couldn't eat another mouthful.* **2** [S] *infml, usu. humor* a big long word or phrase that is difficult to say: *Her name is a bit of a mouthful!* **3** [S] *infml, esp. AmE* a very important statement: *You said a mouthful!* – compare **EARFUL**

mouth-or-gan /'maʊθ,ɔ:ɡən||-,ɔ:r-/ *n* *infml* for HARMONICA

mouth-piece /'maʊθpi:s/ *n* **1** the part of a musical instrument, a tobacco pipe, a telephone, etc., that is held in or near the mouth — see picture at **BRASS 2** [(of) *usu. sing.*] *often derog* a person, newspaper, etc., that expresses the opinions of others: *This newspaper is the mouthpiece of the government.*

mouth-to-mouth re-sus-ci-ta-tion /ˌmʌʊ̯təʊˈmaʊ̯t ˌrɛˈsʌsɪˈteɪʃən/ also **kiss of life** *BrE*— *n* [U] the forcing of air into and out of the lungs of a person who has stopped breathing, by blowing into the mouth, then pressing the chest—see also **FIRST AID**; compare **ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION**, **CPR**

mouth-wash /¹maʊθwɒʃ||-wɔːʃ, -wɔːʃ/ *n* [C;U] (a) liquid used in the mouth, for making it feel and smell fresh, curing infection, etc.

mouth-water-ing /'m.../ *adj* (of food) (looking as if it will be) very pleasant to eat: *mouth-watering chocolates*

mo-va-ble¹, **moveable** /'mʊ:vəbəl/ *adj* that can be moved; not fixed in one place or position: *toy soldiers with movable arms and legs* — see also **IMMOVABLE**

movable², **moveable** *n* [*usu. pl.*] *law* a personal possession, such as a piece of furniture, that can be moved from one house to another —opposite **fixture**

movable feast /... 'i/ *n* a religious day, such as Easter, the date of which varies from year to year

move¹ /mu:v/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) change place or position: *Don't get off the train while it's still moving.* (=before it has stopped) | *Please move your car; it's blocking the road.* | *Can you sit still without moving for ten minutes?* | *I can hear someone moving about upstairs.* | *He was trapped in the crashed car, and couldn't move his legs.* | *This student ought to be moved up to a higher class.* | (*infml*) *That car is really moving!* (=travelling very fast) —see **SHIFT (USAGE)** **2** [I] (of work, events, etc.) to advance; get nearer to an end: *Work on the new building is moving more quickly than was expected.* | *Let's get things moving.* (=make events advance more quickly) **3** [I] to change one's place of living or working: *Their present office is too small, so they've decided to move.* | *We can't move into the new flat until the other tenants have moved out.* | *They don't live here any longer — they've moved away.* —see also **move house** (**MOVE**¹) **4 a** [I;T] (in board games such as **CHES**) to change the position of (a piece): *Haven't you moved yet?* **b** [I+adv/prep] (of a piece in such a game) to be able to travel to another position: *A castle only moves in straight lines.* **5** [T(**to**)] *fml* to cause (a person) to feel pity, sadness, anger, admiration, etc.: *The child's suffering moved us to tears.* | *I was very moved by her sad story.* —see also **MOVING**, **UNMOVED** **6** [T] *fml* or *pomp* to cause (a person) to act, change an opinion, etc.: *He can paint well only when the spirit moves him.* (=when

he feels a real desire to paint) [+obj+to-v] *Hearing so much nonsense talked, I felt moved to speak on the subject.* **7** [I (for); T] to make at a meeting (a formal suggestion on which arguments for and against are heard, and a decision taken, esp. by voting): *I wish to move an amendment to this law.* | *We moved for an adjournment of half an hour.* [+that] *Mr Chairman, I move that the meeting (should) be continued after dinner.* —see also **MOTION**¹ (3) **8** [I (on)] to (start to) take action: *When will the government move on this matter?* [+to-v] *The committee is moving to lift membership restrictions.* **9** [I;T] to sell (goods) or be sold: *The new line of stock is moving much too slowly.* **10** [I+adv/prep, esp. **among, in**] to spend one's time with people of the stated class or type: *a young writer who moves mostly in literary and artistic circles* (=among writers, painters, etc.) **11 move heaven and earth** to do everything one can (to cause or prevent something) **12 move house** *BrE* to take one's furniture and other property to a new home **13 move the goal-posts** *BrE infml* to change the limits within which action or talk concerning a particular matter can take place **14 move with the times** to change one's ways of thinking, living, etc., in accordance with the changes produced by the passing of time: *I don't really like all these computers in the office, but I suppose we must move with the times.* **15 not move a muscle** to stay completely still, esp. so as to show no feelings: *She screamed abuse at him but he didn't move a muscle.* **16 we shall not be moved** the title of a song sung by people who are protesting about something esp. by sitting in a public place and refusing to move

move along *phr v* **1** [I] to move further towards the front or back: *The people standing in the bus moved along, to make room for others.* **2** [I;T (=move sbdy. along)] to **MOVE on** (2)

move in *phr v* [I] **1** to take possession of a new home: *We've bought the house, but we can't move in until next month.* **2** [(on)] to (prepare to) take control, attack, etc.: *Our competitors have gone out of business, so now our company can move in.*

move off *phr v* [I] to leave: *The guard blew his whistle, and the train moved off.*

move on *phr v* **1** [I (to)] to change (to something different or new): *I think we've talked about that subject enough; let's move on.* | *In my day you could only get them in black-and-white, but things have moved on since then.* | (humor) *My boss has moved on to higher things; he's become a politician.* **2** [I;T (=move sbdy. on)] to (order to) go away to another place: *The drunk was annoying people, so the policeman moved him on.* | *"Come along, sir, move on," said the policeman.*

move over *phr v* [I] to change position in order to make room for someone or something else: *Move over and let your grandmother sit down.* | (fig.) *He resigned his position as a director, as he felt he should move over in favour of someone younger.*

move² **n** **1** [S] an act of moving; movement: *If you make a move, I'll shoot.* | *She watched his every move like a hawk.* **2** [C] an act of going to a new home, office, etc.: *How did the move go?* **3** [C] (in games such as CHESS) **a** an act of taking a piece from one square and putting it on another **b** a way in which this may be done, according to the rules: *to learn all the different moves in chess* **c** a player's turn to do this: *It's your move.* **4** [C] a step in a course of action towards a particular result: [+to-v] *New moves to settle the strike have ended in failure.* | *The government is making a|no move to reduce international tension.* | *I know you're both proud and find it difficult to forgive each other after such a bad argument, but someone has to **make the first move**.* | *a good|bad|smart|shrewd move* **5** **get a move on** *infml* (often imperative) to hurry up: *Tell Harry to get a move on.* **6** **make a move** *infml* to start to leave: *It's getting late; we must be making a move soon.* **7** **on the move**: **a** travelling around: *I don't know where Mike is this week; he's always on the move.* **b** beginning to move across land: *We have just received reports that the rebel army is on the move.*

move·a·ble /'mu:vəbəl/ *adj* MOVABLE^{1,2}

move·ment /'mu:vmənt/ *n* **1** [C; U] (an example of) the act of moving or condition of being moved: *He was so badly bruised that even the slightest movement was painful.* | *the movement of goods by road* | *the dancer's graceful movements* — see also MOVEMENTS **2** [C] a general feeling, way of thinking or acting, etc., towards something new:

the movement towards greater freedom for women | *a growing movement towards nuclear disarmament* **3** [C+sing./pl. v] a group of people who make united efforts for a particular purpose: *The trade union movement is concerned with working conditions.* | *the women's movement* **4** [C] a main division of a musical work, esp. of a SYMPHONY **5** [C] the moving parts of a piece of machinery, esp. a clock or watch **6** [C] *fml* an act of emptying the bowels

move-ments /'mu:vmənts/ *n* [P] the whole of a person's activities over a certain period: *The police think this man may be the thief they're looking for, so they're watching his movements carefully.*

mov-er /'mu:və/ *n* **1** a person who makes a formal suggestion at a meeting **2** a person who moves in the stated way: *She's a lovely mover.* (=moves very well) **3** *infml* a person, thing, idea, etc. that is being successful or advancing quickly: *These chocolate cakes are among our fastest movers.* (=we sell a lot of them) | *Talk to her if you want to see some action; she's one of the movers and shakers* (=people who have power) *in this company.* **4** *AmE* a person whose job is to help people MOVE¹ (3) —see also PRIME MOVER

mov-ie /'mu:vi/ *n* *esp. AmE* for FILM¹ (2): *There's a good movie on TV tonight.* —see also HOME MOVIE

mo-vie-go-er /'mu:vigəʊə/ *n* a person who visits the cinema, esp. regularly

mov-ies /'mu:viz/ *n* [the+P] *esp. AmE* the cinema: *We're going to the movies.*

movie star /'.. / *n* *AmE* for FILM STAR

mov-ing /'mu:vɪŋ/ *adj* **1** causing strong sympathetic feelings, esp. of pity: *The film about ill-treatment of animals was so moving that she almost wept.* | *a moving occasion/speech/appeal* **2** [A no comp.] producing movement or action: *She was the moving spirit behind the scheme.* (=the person who caused it to start) **3** [A no comp.] that moves; not fixed: *Oil the moving parts of this machine regularly.* —~ly *adv*

moving pic-ture /'.. '.../ *n* *fml, esp. AmE* for MOVIE

moving stair-case /'.. '.../ *n* an ESCALATOR

moving van /'.. / *n* a REMOVAL VAN

mow /məʊ/ *v* **mowed, mowed or mown** /məʊn/ [I;T] to cut (grass, corn, etc.), or cut what grows in (a field or other area), with a mower or a SCYTHE: *to mow the grass/the lawn* | *new-mown hay* (=recently cut)

mow sbdy. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to kill, destroy, or knock down, esp. in great numbers: *The soldiers were mown down by enemy gunfire.*

mow-er /'məʊə/ *n* **1** a machine for mowing, esp. one for cutting grass in gardens; LAWNMOWER —see picture at GARDEN **2** *old use* a person who mows

Mow-gli /'maʊgli/ a character in *The Jungle Book*, by Rudyard Kipling, who is lost in the JUNGLE (a tropical forest) as a small child and is cared for and taught by the animals in the jungle, esp. the wolves (WOLF¹ (1))

Mo-zam-bique /'məʊzəm'bi:k/ a republic in SE Africa, bordered by the Indian Ocean to the E, South Africa and Swaziland to the S, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi to the W, and Tanzania to the N; capital Maputo; population 15,326,000 (1989) —**biquean** *n,adj*

Mo-zart /'məʊtsɑ:t/-ɑ:rt/, **Wolf-gang Am-a-de-us** /'wʊlfgæŋ æmə'deɪəs/ (1756–91) an Austrian COMPOSER whose works include 41 symphonies (SYMPHONY), piano CONCERTOS and OPERAS. Mozart began to COMPOSE music before he was five years old and performed throughout Europe as a child. —~**ian** /məʊt'sɑ:tiən/-ɑ:r-/ *adj*

moz-za-rel-la /'mɒtsə'relə // ,mɑ:t-/ *n* [U] a soft white Italian cheese, often used on PIZZAS

MP /,em 'pi:/ *n* **1** Member of Parliament; a person who has been elected to represent the people in a parliament (in Britain, in the House of Commons): *She's an MP.* | *Ken Newton, MP* —see also extra information on page 412 **2** *infml* (a member of) the MILITARY POLICE

MPAA /,em pi: ei 'ei/ *n* [U; the] the Motion Picture Association of America; the organization which determines to which age groups films may be shown: *An MPAA rating of 'X' (no persons under 18 allowed) is considered death to a commercial film.*

mpg *written abbrev. for:* miles per GALLON (esp. of petrol): *a car that does 35 mpg*

mph *written abbrev. for:* miles per hour: *driving along at 60 mph*

MPhil /,em 'fɪl/ *n* Master of PHILOSOPHY; (a title for someone who has) a higher university degree at a lower level than a PhD: *Mary Jones, MPhil* | *He's studying for an MPhil.*

Mr /'mɪstə/ *n* **1** (a title for a man who has no other title): *Mr Smith* | *Mr John Smith* —see also MESSRS

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Mr is the usual title for a man on a letter to him, and is more modern than **Esq.** When a man is married, he and his wife may be addressed formally as "Mr and Mrs Horace Bloggs", i.e. the man's FORENAME is used for both him and his wife, or his INITIALS may be used: "Mr and Mrs H J Bloggs". Many people consider this old-fashioned, and in less formal situations the couple might be called "Mr and Mrs Bloggs". ◀

2 (a title used when addressing certain men in official positions: *Mr Chairman* | (in the US) *Mr President* —compare MADAM **3** (used before the name of a place, profession, quality, etc., to form a title for a man representing that thing or quality): *Mr Universe* | *Mr Average*

Mr Big /,.. ' / *n* *sl esp. AmE* the male leader of an esp. criminal organization: *He thinks he's Mr Big.* | *Is he the Mr Big around here?*

MRE /,em ɑ:r 'i:z/ *n* meal ready to eat, a meal supplied to a US soldier on active duty which does not need to be cooked

Mr Fix-it /,mɪstə 'fɪksɪt/-tər-/ see FIXIT

Mr. Good-bar /,mɪstə 'gʊdbɑ:r/-tər-/ *n* *tdmk* a bar of chocolate with PEANUTS sold in the US

Mr. Kip-ling /,.. ' / *n* [C;U] *tdmk* a range of cakes made by Manor Bakeries Ltd.: *Mr. Kipling's Cherry Bakewells.* *Mr. Kipling is my favourite.*

Mr Nice Guy /,.. ' / *n* someone who is taken advantage of because he is too nice, esp. in the phrase **no more Mr Nice Guy**, which people use when they feel others have used them in spite of their kindness

MRP /,em ɑ: 'pi:z/-ɑ:r-/ *n* manufacturer's recommended price; the price which the maker of a product says it should cost (often seen in advertisements): *Sale price £7.50, MRP £9.75*

Mr Right /,.. ' / *humor* a man who would be the perfect husband or partner for a specific woman. Some people think that there is a Mr Right for every woman: *I'm waiting for Mr Right to come along before I consider marriage.* | *I haven't found Mr Right yet.*

Mr. Ro-gers' Neigh-bor-hood /,.. '.../ *n* an American television programme on PBS for very young children. Mr. Rogers, the host of the programme, is always very calm and nice.

Mrs /'mɪsɪz/ *n* **1** (a title for a married woman who has no other title)

► **CULTURAL NOTE** When a woman gets married she usu. takes the title Mrs and starts to use the family name of her husband: *Mrs Jones.* She usu. continues to use her own FORENAME with her husband's family name: *Mrs Sarah Jones,* but in formal esp. written language she may be addressed as Mrs with her husband's forename and family name: *Mrs Andrew Jones;* this practice is becoming rare. —compare MAIDEN NAME, MISS, MS ◀

2 (used before the name of a place, sport, profession, etc., to form a title for a married woman representing that thing): *Mrs 1988 in her modern kitchen*

Mr T. /,mɪstə 'ti:z/-tər-/ an American actor whose real name is Lawrence Tureaud and who is best known for the part of B A Baracus in the American television programme *The A-Team*

ms, pl. mss (often caps.) *written abbrev. for:* MANUSCRIPT

Ms /mɪz, məz/ *n* (a title for a woman who does not wish to be called either "Miss" or "Mrs" or whose MARITAL STATUS is unknown by the person addressing her)

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The title Ms has been used widely since the 1970s, when it began to be used by women who did not want to be known according to whether or not they were married. Although Ms is now in common use, it still carries associations of FEMINISM. —compare MISS, MRS ◀

Ms. a leading FEMINIST magazine in the US: *I read it in an article in Ms.*

MS¹ /,em 'es/ *abbrev. for:* MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

MS² *written abbrev. for:* MISSISSIPPI

MSc /,em es 'sɪz/ also **MS** *AmE*— *n* Master of Science; (a title for someone who has) a university degree in science at the first level above the BSc: *John Smith, MSc* | *He has an MSc in astrophysics.* —compare MA, and see DEGREE (3) (CULTURAL NOTE)

MSF /,em es 'ef/ Manufacturing, Science, and Finance; a British TRADE UNION which represents a wide range of people who do professional, scientific, and technical work

MSG /,em es 'dʒɪz/ *n* [U] *abbrev. for:* MONOSODIUM GLUTAMATE

MST /,em es 'ti:/ *abbrev. for:* MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME

Mt *written abbrev. for:* MOUNT³: *Mt Everest*

MT *written abbrev. for:* MONTANA

MTM /,em ti: 'em/ an American company which makes television programmes, started by Mary Tyler Moore

MTV /,em ti: 'vi:/ music television; an American television company whose programmes are shown around the world. It broadcasts popular music, and pictures of the singers or groups performing it, 24 hours a day.

Mu-ba-rak /mu: 'bɑ:ræk/, **Mu-ham-med Hos-ni** /mʊ 'hæmɪd 'hʊsni/ (1929–) an Egyptian politician, the president of Egypt from 1981

much¹ /mʌtʃ/ *adv* **1** by a large degree: *It was much worse than I thought.* | *He's getting much fatter.* | *He's much the fatter of the two.* | *much the quickest worker* | *much the most interesting story* | *It's much too cold.* | *I'd much rather not go.* —see MORE (USAGE) **2** (in the phrases **too much**, **so much**, **very much**, **how much**?) greatly: *Thank you very much.* | *I like him very much.* | *You've been doing too much — you should take a holiday.* | *She talks a great deal too much.* | *However much you hate cabbage, you must eat it all up.* | (fml) *He would so much like to go.* | *"It's dark!" "So much the better (for us)!" (=that's good)* | *They won't see us climbing the wall."* **3** [usu. in negatives] **a** to a great degree: *I don't much like that idea.* | *I don't like that idea much.* | *Much to my surprise/displeasure she forgot our meeting.* (=she forgot it, which surprised/displeased me greatly) | *The news was much the same as usual.* | *I'm not much good at tennis.* (=do not play it very well) | **Much as I like her** (=although I like her a lot), *I wouldn't like to be married to her.* **b** often: *We don't go out much.* **4** [(like, as)] almost the same: *I found the house much as I'd left it.* | *This sounds much like an argument I've heard before.* **5** **much less** and certainly not: *I can hardly walk, much less run.* **6** **not/nothing much** hardly anything: *There's nothing much we can do about it.* **7** **not so much ... as not ...** but rather: *I don't so much dislike him as feel sorry for him!* **8** **too/a bit much** *infml* unreasonable: *It really is too much of your father to bring guests home to dinner without letting me know in advance.* | *Well, that's a bit much!* **9** **Not much!** *infml* (used to express firm disagreement or disbelief): *"He doesn't want to cheat you."* *"Not much (he doesn't)!"* (=I firmly believe he does want to cheat me.)

▷ USAGE **1** Use **much** with adjectives made from the passive form of verbs, in the same way as **very** is used with ordinary adjectives: *This picture is much admired/is very beautiful.* **2** Do not use **much** between a verb and its object, unless the object is a very long one. Compare *We very much enjoyed the party.* | *We enjoyed the party very much* and *We enjoyed very much the party we went to at your house.* ◁

much² *determiner, pron* **more, most** **1** (used in questions and negatives about [U] nouns, and with **so** and **too**, but not usu. in simple statements) a large amount or part (of): *Hurry up; we haven't got very much time.* | *I've got far too much work to do.* | *How much is that dress?* (=what does it cost?) | *We haven't seen much of you* (=you haven't visited us) *recently.* | *You eat too much.* | (fml) *I have much pleasure in declaring this new factory open.* **2** something very good: *She's not much to look at, but she's very nice.* | *He's very good at tennis, but he's not much of a swimmer.* (=does not swim well) | *My French/This film is not up to much.* (=not very good) | *I don't think much of that idea.* (=I don't think it is very good) | *The new book is better than his last one, but that's not saying much.* (=the last one was so bad that almost anything would be better) **3** **as much again** the same amount again: *It cost*

me nearly £20 to have the TV aerial put up, and as much again to have it moved to the right place. **4** **as much as one can do** the most possible: *He was so rude, it was as much as I could do to keep my temper.* (=I nearly lost it) **5** **I 'thought as much** I had expected that the stated usu. bad thing was so (and now I have been shown to be right): *So he's been cheating. I thought as much.* **6** **make much of:** **a** to treat as important: *Why are you making so much of such a trifling matter?* **b** to understand well: *I couldn't make much of that new book.* **c** to treat with a show of fondness: *He always made much of his niece.* —compare **make little of** (LITTLE) **7** **'so much for** that is the end of: *So much for past events; let me now move on to speculate about the future.* | *Now it's raining; so much for my idea of taking a walk.* (=it is no longer possible) **8** **this/that much** the particular amount or words: *I'll say this much for him, he's a good worker.* (=although I don't like him) **9** **too much for** too hard for: *Climbing the stairs is too much for my grandmother now.*

Much A-do a-bout Noth-ing /, . . . 'nɒθ-ɪŋ/ the title of a play by William Shakespeare. The phrase is now often used when someone is upset about something not very important.

much-her-ald-ed /, . . . 'hʌld-ɪd/ *adj* [A] talked about a lot or for a long time before it actually comes or exists: *Ford today revealed their much-heralded new family car.*

much-ness /'mʌtʃnɪs/ *n* **much of a muchness** *BrE infml* the same in most ways; not very different from one another: *We found it hard to choose a carpet: they were all much of a muchness.*

mu-ci-lage /'mjʊzəlɪdʒ/ *n* [U] sticky liquid obtained from plants and used esp. as glue

muck¹ /mʌk/ *n* [U] *infml or dial* **1** dirt or mud: *The kids were covered in muck.* **2** waste matter dropped from animals' bodies, esp. when used for spreading on the land; MANURE **3** **make a muck of** *infml, esp. BrE* to spoil or do (something) wrongly or badly **4** **where there's muck there's brass** *infml or dial* where there is dirt there is money; a phrase connected esp. with the North of England

muck² *v* [T] *infml* to spread muck on: *to muck the fields* **muck about/around** *phr v infml, esp. BrE* **1** [I] to behave in a silly or aimless way: *Stop mucking about and listen to what I'm saying.* **2** [T] (**muck** sbdy. **about/around**) to treat without consideration: *My boss is mucking me about again; he keeps changing his mind.* **muck in** *phr v* [I (with)] *infml, esp. BrE* to join in work or activity (with others): *If we all muck in we'll soon finish the job.*

muck (sthg. ↔) **out** *phr v* [I;T] **1** to clean (places where animals live): *to muck out the stable* **2** to do this for (an animal): *to muck out the horses*

muck sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml, esp. BrE* **1** to make dirty: *I mucked up my shirt when I was working in the garden.* **2** **a** to spoil (an arrangement): *The change in the weather has mucked up our sports timetable.* **b** to do (something) wrong: *to muck up an examination*

muck-heap /'mʌkhi:p/ *n* a pile of MANURE (=animal waste matter), esp. outside a farm

muck-lucks /'mʌklʌks/ *n* [P] *AmE* boots made from CANVAS with a thick SOLE, worn over thick socks or other shoes for walking in snow— see PAIR (USAGE)

muck-rak-ing /'mʌk-reɪkɪŋ/ *n* [U] the practice of searching out and telling unpleasant stories, which may or may not be true, about well-known people: *Those gossip columnists really enjoy muckraking.* —**muckraking** *adj* —**er** *n*

muck-spread-er /'mʌkspreɪdər/ *n* a machine used on a farm to spread MANURE (=animal waste matter) on fields

muck-spread-ing /'mʌkspreɪdɪŋ/ *n* [U] the spreading of MANURE (=animal waste matter) on farm land to improve the goodness of the soil

muck-y /'mʌki/ *adj infml or dial* **1** dirty **2** *esp. BrE* (of weather) bad; stormy

mu-cous mem-brane /,mjʊ:kəs 'membreɪn/ *n* [U] the surface on certain inner parts of the body which is kept wet and smooth by producing mucus

mu-cus /'mjʊ:kəs/ *n* [U] a slippery liquid produced in certain delicate parts of the body, esp. the nose —**cous** *adj*

mud /mʌd/ *n* [U] **1** very wet earth in a sticky mass **2** **someone's name is mud** *infml* someone is unpopular and spoken about with disapproval after causing trouble:

My name's mud in the office after what happened today. —see also **sling mud at** (SLING¹) **3 here's mud in your eye interj, infml** (used for expressing good wishes when drinking with someone; similar to CHEERS)

mud bath /'mʌd bɑːθ/ *n* a health treatment in which heated mud is put on the body, used esp. by people suffering from ARTHRITIS or RHEUMATISM to lessen pain —see also MUDPACK

mud-dle¹ /'mʌdl/ *n* [usu. sing.] a state of confusion and disorder: *The papers are all in a muddle.* | *I was in such a muddle that I didn't even know what day it was.*

muddle² *v* [T (UP)] **1** to put into disorder: *Careful — you're muddling up the papers!* **2** to confuse in the mind: *That waitress gets muddled when she has to take a lot of orders at once.* —**idler** *n*

muddle along *phr v* [I] to continue in a confused manner, without a clear plan

muddle through *phr v* [I] to reach successful results without having a clear plan or using the best methods: *There were problems, but we muddled through somehow.*

muddle-head-ed /'mʌd hɛd/ *adj* unable to think clearly —**ness** *n* [U]

mud-dy¹ /'mʌdi/ *adj* **1** covered with or containing mud: *the muddy waters of the river* | *Take off those muddy boots.* **2** (of colours) like mud; not bright: *a muddy brown* | *a muddy* (=dull and unhealthy) *complexion* **3** not clear; confused: *muddy thinking* —**diness** *n* [U]

muddy² *v* [T] to make dirty with mud: *Your dog's muddying my dress.*

mud-flap /'mʌdflæp/ *BrE* || also **splash guard** *AmE*— *n* a piece of rubber or other heavy material hanging behind the wheel of a vehicle, esp. a TRUCK, to keep the mud from flying up —see picture at CAR

mud-flat /'mʌdflæt/ *n* [often pl.] an area of muddy land, covered by the sea when it comes up and uncovered when it goes down

mud-guard /'mʌdgɑːd/ *BrE* || **fender** *AmE*— *n* a cover over the wheel of a bicycle, etc. to keep the mud from flying up —see picture at BICYCLE

mud-pack /'mʌdpæk/ *n* a MUD BATH for the face

mud pie /'mʌd piː/ *n* a little ball of wet mud made by children at play

mud-sling-er /'mʌdslɪŋə/ *n* *derog* a person who tells wicked, often untrue, stories about an opponent, esp. in politics —**ing** *n* [U]

mues-li /'mjuːzli/ *n* [U] grain, nuts, dried fruits, etc., mixed together and eaten with milk as a breakfast food. Muesli is considered to be a healthy food and is often given as an example of the kind of food eaten by people interested in eating healthy foods.

mu-ez-zin /muː'ezɪn, 'mwezɪn/ *n* a man who calls Muslims to prayer from a MINARET

muff¹ /mʌf/ *n* a short tube of thick cloth or fur, into which one can put one's hands to keep them warm, used esp. in former times

muff² *v* [T] **1** (in games) to fail to hold; miss: *to muff a catch* **2** [(UP)] *infml* to spoil a chance to do (something) well; BUNGLE: *I had a chance to impress her with my efficiency and I muffed it (up).* —**muff** *n*

muf-fin /'mʌfɪn/ *n* **1** *BrE* || **English muffin** *AmE*— a small thick round breadlike cake, usu. eaten hot with butter —compare CRUMPET (1) **2** *AmE* a small sweetened cake which usu. has something particular added to give it an interesting taste: *blueberry/bran/chocolate chip muffins*

Muffin the Mule /'mʌfɪn ðə muːl/ a wooden PUPPET shown on children's television in Britain in the 1950s

muf-*fl*e /'mʌfə/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] **1** to make (a sound) less easily heard: *The sound of the bell was muffled by the curtains.* | *muffled voices coming from the next room* **2** [(UP)] to cover (esp. oneself) thickly and warmly: *He went out into the snow muffled (up) in his scarf and heavy overcoat.*

muf-*fl*er /'mʌflə/ *n* **1** a heavy SCARF worn to keep one's neck warm **2** *AmE* for SILENCER

muf-ti¹ /'mʌfti/ *n* a person who officially explains Muslim law

mufti² *n* in **mufti** wearing ordinary clothes, not the uniform (esp. military uniform) which one usually wears

mug¹ /mʌg/ *n* **1** a round container for drinking esp. hot liquids such as tea and coffee, having straight sides and a handle, and used, without a SAUCER in the home or on

informal occasions but not at formal events. —compare CUP¹ and see picture at GLASS **2** also **mug-ful** /-fʊl/— the contents of a mug: *two mugs of coffee* **3** *BrE infml* a foolish person who is easily deceived —see also MUG'S GAME **4** *sl* the face or mouth: *his ugly mug*

mug² *v* -**gg-** [T] to rob (a person) with violence, esp. in a public place —**mugging** *n* [C;U]: *a big increase in the number of muggings in this area*

mug up *phr v* [I;T (=mug sthg. ↔ up)] *infml, esp. BrE* to study with great effort, esp. when preparing for an exam

Mu-ga-be /muː'gɑːbi/, **Rob-ert Ga-bri-el** /'rɒbət 'geɪbrɪəl/ (1924–) an African nationalist and politician who helped Zimbabwe to become independent. He became Prime Minister in 1980, when Zimbabwe became independent, and became its first president in 1988.

mug-ger /'mʌgə/ *n* a person who mugs people

Mug-ge-ridge /'mʌgədʒɪdʒ/, **Malcolm** (1903–90) a British JOURNALIST, writer, and ACADEMIC, noted for his Christian views

mug-gins /'mʌgɪnz/ *n* *BrE sl* a fool, esp. when used of oneself: *Everyone disappeared after dinner, leaving muggins (=me) to do the washing-up.*

mug-gy /'mʌgi/ *adj infml* (of weather) unpleasantly warm with heavy wet air —**giness** *n* [U]

mug's game /'mʌg ɪ ɡeɪm/ *n* [S] *BrE infml* a course of action that is unlikely to be rewarding or profitable: *Writing's a mug's game; you should get a proper job!* —see also MUG¹ (3)

mug-shot /'mʌgʃɒt/ *n* *sl* a photograph of a person's face, esp. a photograph of a criminal taken by the police

mug-wump /'mʌg-wʌmp/ *n* *AmE derog old-fash* a person who tries to be independent of the leaders in politics

Mu-ham-mad /mʊ'hæmɪd, mə-/ also **Mohammed**— (570?–632) an Arab holy man and the originator of Islam, born in Mecca, to whom God told many things which are recorded in the Koran

Muhammad, El-i-jah /ɪ'lɑɪdʒə/ (1897–1975) the leader of the Black Muslims from the late 1930s until his death

Mu-ham-ma-dan /mʊ'hæmɪdən, mə-/ also **Mohammedan**— *adj, n* (a) Muslim (considered offensive by some Muslims)

Mu-ham-ma-dan-is-m /mʊ'hæmɪdənɪzəm, mə-/ also **Mohammedanism**— *n* [U] the Muslim religion; ISLAM (considered offensive by some Muslims)

Muir /mjʊə/, **Frank** (1920–) a British writer for radio and television who also appears on television and is best known for the programme *Call My Bluff*

Muir, Jean /dʒiːn/ (1933–) a British dress DESIGNER, known for her CLASSIC clothes: *a Jean Muir dress*

mu-ja-hed-din /'muːdʒəhe'dɪn/ *n* [P] Muslim soldiers who oppose the government in Afghanistan

mu-lat-to /mjʊː'lætəʊ/ *mu-* *n* -**tos** or -**toes** *now usu. considered derog* a person with one black parent and one white one

mul-ber-ry /'mʌlbəri/ *n* (a tree with) a dark purple fruit which can be eaten

mulch¹ /mʌltʃ/ *n* [S;U] a covering of material, often made from decaying plants, used to improve soil and protect the roots of plants

mulch² *v* [T] to cover with a mulch

mulct /mʌkt/ *v* [T (of)] *fml or old use* to punish by taking away (money); to FINE

mule¹ /mjʊːl/ *n* **1** the animal which is the young of a DONKEY and a usu. female horse. Mules are usu. thought of as being STUBBORN. **2** a sort of spinning-machine (SPIN¹ (2))

mule² *n* [usu. pl.] a shoe or SLIPPER with no back, but only a piece of material across the toes to hold it on —see PAIR (USAGE)

mu-le-teer /'mjʊːlɪ'tɪə/ also **mule-skin-ner** /'mjʊːlskɪnə/ *AmE*— *n* a man who drives mules

mul-ish /'mjʊːlɪʃ/ *adj* unreasonably refusing to agree with the wishes of others; STUBBORN: *mulish obstinacy* —**ly** *adv* —**ness** *n* [U]

mull¹ /mʌl/ *v* [T] to heat (wine or beer) with sugar and SPICES: *mulled ale*

mull sthg. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T] to think over; consider for

a time; PONDER: *I've been mulling over your advice but I still haven't decided what to do.*

mull² *n* ScotE an area of land standing out into the sea; PROMONTORY

Mull the largest island in the Inner Hebrides, NW Scotland, often visited by tourists

mul-lah /'mʌlə/ *n* a Muslim teacher of law and religion

mul-let /'mʌlət/ *n* **mullet** or **mullets** a fairly small sea fish which can be eaten

mul-li-ga-taw-ny /,mʌlɪgə'tɔːni/ -'tɔːni, -'tɔːni/ *n* [U] a strong soup, containing hot SPICES

mul-lion /'mʌljən/ *n* the wood, metal, or esp. stone part running up and down between the glass parts of a window — **~ed adj**: *mullioned windows*

Mul-ro-ney /mʌl'rəʊni/, **Bri-an** /'braɪən/ (1939–) a Canadian politician who was Prime Minister from 1984 to 1993

multi- see WORD FORMATION

mul-ti-choice /,mʌlti 'tʃɔɪs/ *adj* MULTIPLE CHOICE

mul-ti-cul-tu-ral /,mʌlti 'kʌltʃərəl/ *n* including people or teachings from several different CULTURES: *multicultural education*

multi-faith /,.. 'fəɪθ/ *adj* [A] including or involving people of several different religious faiths: *a multi-faith service of thanksgiving* | *a multi-faith society*

mul-ti-far-i-ous /,mʌltɪ'fæəriəs/ *adj* of many different types; showing great variety: *his multifarious business activities* — **~ly adv** — **~ness n** [U]

mul-ti-form /'mʌltɪfɔːm/ -fɔːrm/ *adj fml* having several different shapes or appearances

multi-func-tion /,.. 'fʌŋkʃən/ *adj* [A] (of a machine, an apparatus, etc.) that has several different uses: *a multi-function clock, timer, and stop-watch* | *a multi-function tool which combines spanners, a screwdriver, and a saw*

mul-ti-lat-e-ral /,mʌlti 'lætərəl/ *adj* concerning or including more than two groups or nations: *a multilateral agreement* | *multilateral trade* — compare BILATERAL, UNILATERAL — **~ly adv**

mul-ti-lin-gual /,mʌlti 'lɪŋgwəl/ *adj* 1 containing or expressed in many different languages: *a multilingual dictionary/advertisement* 2 able to speak many different languages: *a multilingual secretary* — compare POLYGLOT

mul-ti-mil-lion-aire /,mʌlti,mɪljə'neə/ *n* a person who has several million pounds or dollars

mul-ti-na-tion-al /,mʌlti 'næʃənəl/ *adj* (of a company) having factories, offices, or other operations in many different countries: *a multinational motor-manufacturing corporation* — **multinational n**

mul-ti-ple¹ /'mʌltɪpəl/ *adj* [no comp.] including many different parts, types, etc.: *The driver of the crashed car received multiple injuries.* | *multiple ownership* | *multiple births*

multiple² *n* [(of)] a number which contains a smaller number an exact number of times: $3 \times 4 = 12$, $2 \times 6 = 12$; so 12 is a multiple of 3/is a common multiple of 2, 3, 4, and 6. | *These saving certificates are sold in multiples of £50.* — see also LOWEST COMMON MULTIPLE

multiple choice /,.. 'tʃɔɪs/ also **multi-choice** — *adj* (of a test) having several answers from which one is to be chosen. Many school examinations, such as GCSEs in the UK or SATs in the US, have multiple choice questions: *multiple choice exam*

multiple scle-ro-sis /,.. 'sklɪrə'siːs/ (abbrev. MS) *n* [U] a serious disease in which, over a period of time, an important covering around the nerves becomes reduced, and which may lead to a loss of feeling and an inability to control movements

multiple store /,.. 'stɔː/ also **multiple infml** — *n* esp. BrE for CHAIN STORE

mul-ti-plex /'mʌltɪpleks/ *adj tech* 1 having many parts: *the multiplex eye of the fly* 2 (of a cinema) having more than one SCREEN on which to show films: *If the film is a megahit, it may well be played on 2 of the 12 screens in a multiplex theatre.*

mul-ti-plex-er /'mʌltɪpleksə/ also **mux infml n** an electronic DEVICE that allows many users to exchange information on a single CHANNEL (e.g. between computers)

mul-ti-pli-ca-tion /,mʌltɪplɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [U] 1 the method of combining two numbers by adding one of them to itself as many times as the other states: $2 \times 4 = 8$ is an example

of multiplication. — compare DIVISION (5) 2 a big increase made by adding

multiplication table /,.. 'pleɪʃən/ a TABLE¹ (5)

mul-ti-pli-ci-ty /,mʌltɪ'plɪsɪti/ *n* [S;U (of)] (a) large number or great variety: *a multiplicity of ideas* | *the stars in all their multiplicity*

mul-ti-ply /'mʌltɪplaɪ/ *v* 1 [I;T (by, TOGETHER)] to combine by multiplication: *to multiply 2 by 3* | *2 multiplied by 3* ($2 \times 3 = 6$) | *to multiply two numbers together* — compare DIVIDE¹ (4) 2 [I;T] to greatly increase in number or amount: *to multiply one's chances of success* | *Spending on military equipment has multiplied in the last five years.* 3 [I] to breed: *When animals have more food, they generally multiply faster.*

mul-ti-pur-pose /,mʌlti'pɜːpəs/ -'pɜːr/ *adj* serving several different purposes: *a multipurpose cloth*

mul-ti-ra-cial /,mʌlti'reɪʃəl/ *adj* consisting of or including several races of people: *a multiracial community/school/society*

mul-ti-sto-rey /,mʌlti'stɔːri/ *adj* [A] BrE (of a building) having several levels or floors: *a big multi-storey car park* — **multi-storey n**: *Let's park in the multi-storey.*

mul-ti-tude /'mʌltɪtjuːd/ -tʊd/ *n* 1 [C+sing./pl. v] a large number: *There is/are a multitude of reasons against it.* 2 [the] also **multitudes pl.** — a old use or bibl a large crowd b ordinary people, esp. considered as uneducated and easily influenced; the MASSES: *politicians who seek the approval of the multitude/the multitudes* 3 cover a 'multitude of sins humor to be a common and useful excuse: *Don't say you woke up late — say you were delayed. That covers a multitude of sins!*

mul-ti-tu-di-nous /,mʌltɪ'tjuːdɪnəs/ -'tʊz/ *adj fml* or humor very many; NUMEROUS: *all my wife's multitudinous relatives* — **~ly adv** — **~ness n** [U]

mum¹ /mʌm/ BrE || **mom** AmE — *n infml* mother: *Can we go now, Mum?* | *I'll have to ask my mum and dad.* — see FATHER, MOTHER

mum² *adj* [F] not saying or telling anything; keeping silent, usu. about something secret (esp. in the phrase **keep mum**)

mum³ *interj* **mum's the word** this must not be talked about: *Remember it's a secret: mum's the word.*

mum-ble /'mʌmbəl/ *v* 1 [I;T] to speak or say unclearly: *Don't mumble — I can't hear what you're saying.* | *The old woman mumbled a prayer.* | *He mumbled something about a letter.* 2 [T] to bite (food) slowly as if without teeth: *an old dog mumbling a bone*

mum-bo jum-bo /,mʌmbəʊ 'dʒʌmbəʊ/ *n* [U] derog mysterious talk or activity, esp. of a religious kind, which seems meaningless and confusing

mum-mi-fy /'mʌmɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] to preserve (a dead body) as a MUMMY² — **fication** /,mʌmɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [U]

mum-ming /'mʌmɪŋ/ *n* go **mumming** (esp. formerly in Britain) to visit people at Christmas wearing special clothes, esp. to give a performance in a group according to an old custom — **mer n**

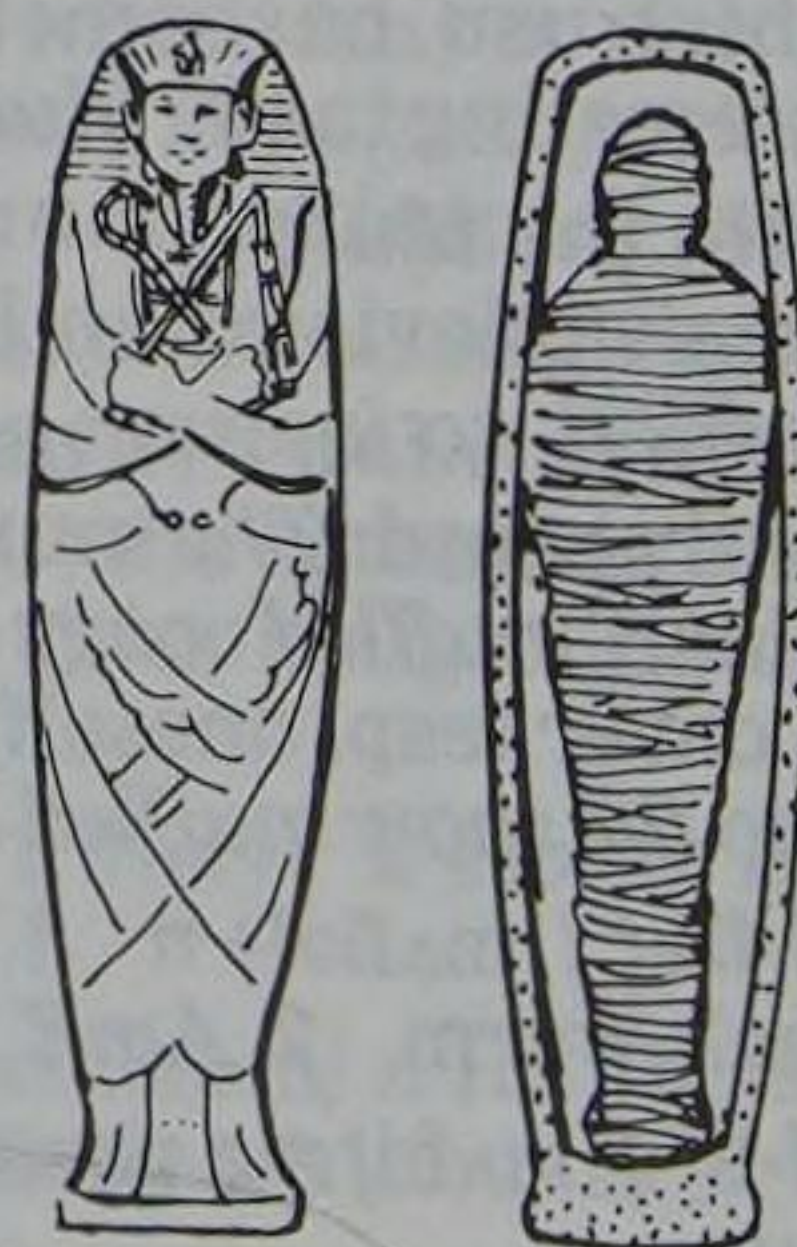
mum-my¹ /'mʌmi/ BrE || **mommy, momma** AmE — *n* (used esp. by or to young children) mother — compare DADDY; compare MUM; see FATHER, MOTHER

mummy² *n* a dead body preserved from decay by treatment with special substances, esp. as in ancient Egypt

mum-to-be /,.. 'tʃɔɪs/ *n infml* a MOTHER-TO-BE; a PREGNANT woman

mumps /mʌmps/ *n* [(the) U] an infectious illness in which the GLANDS (=organs which send substances into the bloodstream) swell, particularly those around the neck and mouth: *The child has (the) mumps.*

munch /mʌntʃ/ *v* [I (AWAY, at);T] to eat (something hard) with a strong movement of the jaw, making a noise: *munching an apple* | *The horse was munching away at my hat!*



mus-cu-lar /'mʌskjʊlə/ *adj* **1** of or consisting of muscles:
a muscular disease | the muscular system **2** having big

muscles; strong-looking: *a muscular body* | *He's big and muscular.* — *~ly adv*

muscular dys-tro-phy /ˌmʌskjʊlə ˈdɪstrəfi-/ *n* [U] a serious illness in which the muscles become weaker over a period of time

muse¹ /mjuz/ *v* [I (over, (up)on)] to think deeply, forgetting about the world around one: *She sat musing for hours.* — *~musingly adv*

muse² *n* **1** (sometimes *cap.*) in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, an ancient Greek goddess, one of nine, who each represented an art or science **2** a force or person that seems to help someone to write, paint, etc.; someone's INSPIRATION(2): *a musician whose muse has left him* (=who can no longer write music well)

Mu-sée d'Or-say /ˌmjuzɛi dɔː'seɪ/ *n* [the] a museum in Paris, opened to the public in 1986 and built in a former railway station, which contains Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, SCULPTURES and Art Nouveau

mu-se-um /mjuzˈziːəm/ *n* a building or room where objects are kept and usu. shown to the public because of their scientific, historical, or artistic interest

Museum of Lon-don /ˌmjuziəm ɒf lɒndən/ *n* [the] a large museum in central London which tells the history of London

Museum of Man-kind /ˌmjuziəm ɒf mænkaɪnd/ *n* [the] a museum in W central London of the lives and different CULTURES of people around the world

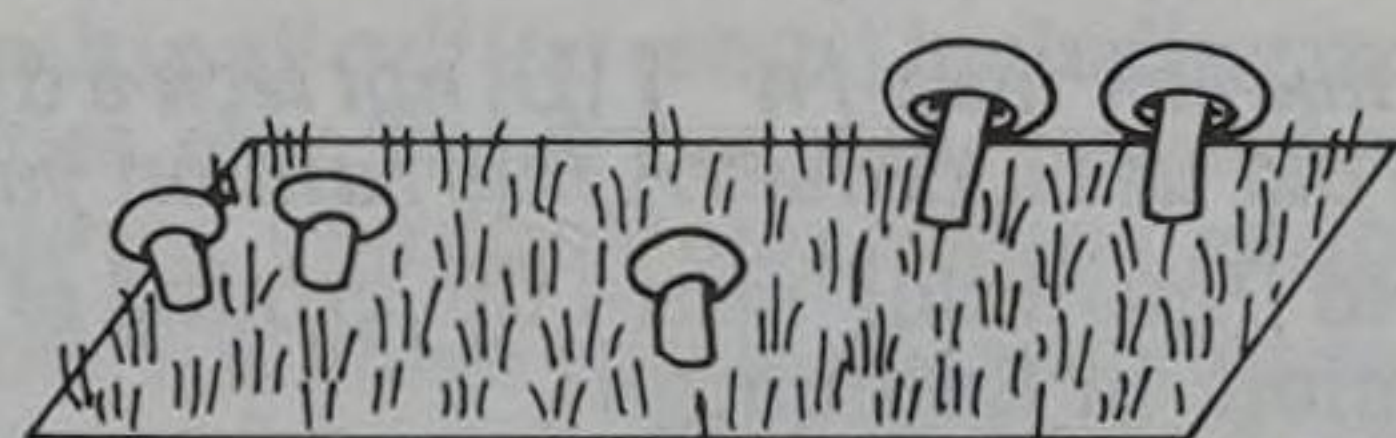
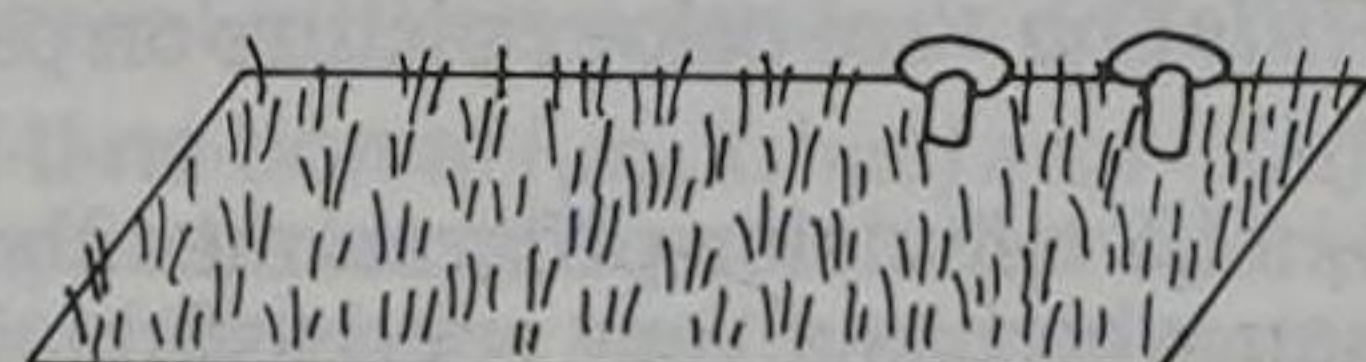
Museum of Mod-ern Art /ˌmjuziəm ɒf mɒdɪn ɑːt/ also **MOMA** — *n* [the] a museum in New York City which contains one of the world's finest collections of modern art and photography

Museum of the Mov-ing Im-age /ˌmjuziəm ɒf ðə muːvɪŋ ɪmɪdʒ/ also **MOMI** *n* [the] a MUSEUM on London's South Bank, containing collections of equipment for producing moving pictures, and which has television and LASER shows

museum piece /ˌmjuziəm piːs/ *n* **1** an object interesting enough to keep in a MUSEUM **2** often *humor* an old-fashioned person or thing

mush /mʌʃ/ *n* **1** [S;U] a soft mass of half-liquid, half-solid material, esp. food **2** [U] *AmE* a thick PORRIDGE made with CORN MEAL **3** [U] *infml* words, writing, etc., that are too sweet and sad; SENTIMENTALITY — *~y adj*: *mushy peas* | *a mushy film*

mushroom



mush-room¹ /ˈmʌʃruːm, -rʊm/ *n* **1** any of several types of FUNGUS, some of which can be eaten, which grow and develop very quickly — compare TOADSTOOL **2** anything that grows and develops fast: *the mushroom development of new housing in this area* **3** the shape of the cloud that forms in the air above a NUCLEAR explosion: *a mushroom cloud* — see picture at NUCLEAR

mushroom² *v* [I] **1** to grow and develop fast: *New housing estates have mushroomed on the edge of the town.* **2** [+adv/prep] to form and spread in the shape of a mushroom: *The smoke mushroomed into the sky.*

mu-sic /ˈmjuzɪk/ *n* [U] **1** the arrangement of sounds in patterns, esp. to produce a pleasing effect: *a beautiful piece of music* | *This music is by Beethoven.* | *an old poem that has been set to music* (=for which music has been written) | *classical music* | (fig.) *Her voice was music to my ears.* **2** the art of making music: *to study music* | *a music student* **3** a written or printed set of notes: *Give me my music and I'll play it for you.* | *a sheet of music on a music stand* — see picture at NOTATION **4** if music be

the food of love, play on *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Twelfth Night* **5** *she shall have music wherever she goes* a line from the NURSERY RHYME *Ride a Cock-Horse* — see also **face the music** (FACE²)

mu-sic-al¹ /ˈmjuzɪkəl/ *adj* **1** [A no comp.] of or producing music: *musical instruments* | *We joined a musical society.* **2** skilled in and/or fond of music: *a very musical child* **3** like music; pleasant to hear: *her musical voice* — see also **MUSICALLY**

musical² also **musical com-e-dy** /ˌmjuzɪkəl ˈkɒmɪdi/ *n* a play or film with spoken words, songs, and often dances: *a Broadway musical*

musical box /ˈmjuzɪkəl bɒks/ *esp. BrE* || also **music box** /ˈmjuzɪkəl bɒks/ *esp. AmE* — *n* a box containing a clockwork apparatus which plays music when the lid is lifted

musical chairs /ˌmjuzɪkəl ˈtʃeəz/ *n* [U] a game often played at children's or family parties, in which music is played and whenever it stops, each person tries quickly to find a chair because there is always one chair too few

musical in-stru-ment /ˌmjuzɪkəl ɪnˈstrʊmənt/ *n* an INSTRUMENT(2): *Do you play a musical instrument?*

mu-sic-ally /ˈmjuzɪkli/ *adv* **1** in a musical way: *She laughed musically.* **2** with regard to music: *Musically it's a good song, but I don't like the words.*

music cen-tre /ˈmjuzɪkəl ˈtʃeə/ *BrE* || **stereo system** *AmE* — *n* a system containing typically a record player, a radio, a COMPACT DISC player, and a CASSETTE recorder in a single unit

music hall /ˈmjuzɪkəl ˈhɒl/ *n* **1** [U] *BrE* || **vaudeville** *AmE* — theatre entertainment, esp. in former times, with songs, jokes, acts of skill, etc. — compare **VARIETY** (4) **2** [C] (in Britain, esp. in former times) a theatre used for such performances

mu-si-cian /mjuzˈɪʃən/ *n* a person who performs on, or writes music for, a musical instrument — compare **COMPOSER** and see colour picture on page 0000

mu-si-cian-ship /mjuzˈɪʃənʃɪp/ *n* [U] skill in performing or writing music

music vid-e-o /ˈmjuzɪkəl ˈvɪdiəʊ/ *n* a VIDEO² (1) in which the performance of a song is filmed, along with other images that express the ideas or feelings in the music

musk /mʌsk/ *n* [U] a strong smelling substance used in making PERFUMES¹ (2) — *~y adj*: *her musky perfume* — *~iness n* [U]

mus-ket /ˈmʌskɪt/ *n* a type of gun used in former times

mus-ket-eer /ˈmʌskɪt ˈtɪə/ *n* a soldier who is armed with a musket — see also **THREE MUSKETEERS**

mus-ket-ry /ˈmʌskɪtri/ *n* [U] the skill of using small guns in battle

musk-rat /ˈmʌskræt/ also **mus-quash** /ˈmʌskwɒʃ/ || -wɔːʃ, -wɔːʃ/ — *n* a North American rat-like animal that lives in water and is hunted for its fur

Mus-lim /ˈmʌzlɪm, ˈmuz-, ˈmus-/ also **Moslem** (old-fash) — *n* a follower of the religion started by Muhammad; a believer in Islam — see also **BLACK MUSLIM** — **Muslim** *adj* **NOTE: Mohammedan and Muhammadan** should not be used as they are considered very offensive by Muslims.

mus-lin /ˈmʌzlɪn/ *n* [U] a very fine thin cotton cloth, used (esp. formerly) for light dresses

muss /mʌs/ *v* [T (UP)] *infml, esp. AmE* to make (esp. the hair) untidy or disordered

mus-sel /ˈmʌsəl/ *n* a small sea animal living inside a shell made of two parts, whose soft body can be eaten as food

Mus-so-li-ni /ˌmʊsəˈliːni/, **Be-ni-to** /beˈniːtəʊ/ (1883–1945) an Italian Fascist DICTATOR, known as **Il Duce**, who led the Italian army during the Second World War. He was killed by the Italians after the war.

must¹ /mʌst; strong mʌst/ *v* 3rd person sing. **must**, negative short form **mustn't** [modal+to-v] **1** (past usu. **had to**) (shows what it is necessary for one to do, what one ought to do, or what one is forced to do): *I must leave at six today.* (compare *I had to leave at six yesterday.*) | *You mustn't tell anyone about this — it's a secret.* | *This information must in no circumstances be given to the general public.* | *The notice says "Prams must be left outside the shop".* | *Must I take this horrible medicine?* | *I must admit I don't like her.* | (shows a firm intention) *I must write a letter to the bank.* | (used in making suggestions, etc.) *You must go and see that new film — you'd really enjoy it.* **2** (past

must have to be likely or certain to: *You must feel tired after your long walk.* | *There's nobody here — they must have all gone home.* | *You must be* (=I suppose you are) *the new teacher.* (compare *You can't be the new teacher.*) | *£2000 for that old car? You must be joking!* (=Surely you are not serious!) **3** (past **must**) to do, in spite of being unwise or unwanted: *If you must drink so much, of course you'll feel sick.* | *Naturally, after I gave her my advice, she must go and do the opposite!* **4** **must have** old use (in a sentence with **if**) would have had to: *If he had told me I must have helped him.* —see NOT (USAGE)

▷ **USAGE** 1 **Must** in senses 1 and 3 above is understood in American English, but most speakers find it formal or British-sounding, because **have to** is the more common form. 2 **Must** is used in two ways, to express a what is necessary, and **b** what is certain or probable. For sense **a** the past is usually **had to**: *I had to get up early yesterday.* The negative is either **mustn't** (=it is forbidden) or **needn't** (=it is unnecessary): *You mustn't smoke in the classroom.* | *You needn't arrive at the airport till 10.30.* —see also **NEED**³ (USAGE). For sense **b** the past is **must have** and the negative **can't** (present) or **can't have/couldn't have** (past): *They must have known about it.* (=I'm sure they knew) | *They can't have known about it.* (=I'm sure they didn't know) 3 **Ought to** and **should** can be used as less strong forms of **must** in both these senses. Compare *The doctor told me I must stop smoking.* | *My friends told me I ought to/should stop smoking,* and in sense **b** *The meal must be ready by now.* (=I'm sure it is) | *The meal ought to/should be ready by now.* (=I expect it probably is) <

must² *n* [S] something which it is necessary or very important to have or experience: *Warm clothes are a must in the mountains.*

must³ *n* [U] the liquid from which wine is made; GRAPE juice

mus-tache /mə'stɑːʃ/ *n* AmE for MOUSTACHE

mus-ta-chi-o /mə'stɑːʃiəʊ/ *n* -chios [*usu. pl.*] a large curly MOUSTACHE —oed *adj*

mus-tang /'mʌstæŋ/ *n* a small American wild horse; BRONCO

Mustang *n* a fast car built by the Ford company in the US, popular esp. in the 1960s and 1970s

mus-tard /'mʌstəd/ *n* [U] (a yellow-flowered plant whose seeds produce) a hot-tasting powder that is mixed with water and eaten in small quantities esp. with meat —see also **as keen as mustard** (KEEN¹)

mustard gas /'.../ *n* [U] a poisonous gas which burns the skin, sometimes used in the First World War

mustard plas-ter /'.../ *n* a POULTICE containing mustard, used esp. in former times

mus-ter¹ /'mʌstə/ *v* [I;T (UP)] esp. *fml* or *lit* to gather or collect: *The troops mustered on the hill.* | *I mustered (up) my courage and walked onto the stage.* | *trying to muster support for her proposals*

muster² *n* 1 a gathering of people, esp. of soldiers 2 **pass muster** to be accepted as satisfactory

Mus-tique /mʊ'stiːk/ a small island in the Caribbean. It is a popular place for very rich people, including members of the British Royal family, to take holidays.

must-n't /'mʌsənt/ *short for*: must not: *We must meet again, mustn't we (fml) must we not?*

must-y /'mʌsti/ *adj* with an unpleasant smell as if old: *musty old books* —iness *n* [U]

mu-ta-ble /'mjʊtəbəl/ *adj fml* able or likely to change —bility /'mjʊtə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

mu-ta-gen /'mjʊtədʒən, -dʒen/ *n* a substance that causes a mutation (1) in a living thing

mu-tant /'mjʊtənt/ *n* a living thing which has a quality different from any of its parents' qualities and produced by a mutation

mu-tate /'mjʊt'eɪt/ *v* [I] (of an animal or plant) to develop a new quality or characteristic as a result of a change in one or more cells of the body

mu-ta-tion /mjʊt'eɪʃən/ *n* 1 [C;U] (an example or result of) a process of change in the cells of a living thing producing a new quality in the material or parts of the body, and sometimes causing illness 2 [U] *tech* change

in a speech sound, esp. a vowel, because of the sound of the one next to it —see also UMLAUT

mu-ta-tis mu-tan-dis /mʊˌtɑːtɪs mʊˌtændɪs/ *adv* *Lat* with or including necessary changes; taking into consideration differences in details

mute¹ /mjʊt/ *adj* 1 silent; without speech: *mute astonishment* 2 *tech* not pronounced: *The word "debt" contains a mute letter.* —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U]

mute² *n* 1 a person who cannot speak 2 *tech* an object used with a musical instrument to make it give a softer sound

mute³ *v* [I] *tech* (of a bird) to pass waste matter from the body

mut-ed /'mjʊtɪd/ *adj* 1 (of sound or colours) made softer than usual 2 (esp. of expressions of feeling) less forceful than usual or expected: *muted criticism/enthusiasm*

mu-ti-late /'mjʊtɪleɪt/ *v* [T often *pass.*] 1 to seriously damage (esp. a person's body) by removing a part; MAIM: *The kidnapper threatened to mutilate the child if his price was not paid soon.* | *a mutilated body* 2 to spoil completely: *You've mutilated the story by making such big changes.* —lation /'mjʊtɪ'leɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

mu-ti-neer /'mjʊtɪ'nɪə, -tən/ *n* a person who takes part in a mutiny

mu-ti-nous /'mjʊtɪnəs, -tən/ *adj* 1 taking part in a mutiny: *mutinous soldiers* 2 angrily disobedient; REBELLIOUS: *mutinous teenagers* | *the mutinous faces of the staff* —~ly *adv*

mu-ti-ny /'mjʊtɪni, -təni/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the act of taking power from the person in charge, esp. from a captain on a ship: *There is talk of mutiny among the sailors.* —mutiny *v* [I]

Mutiny on the Boun-ty /'.../ *The* the title of a book and several films about the mutiny in 1789 of SAILORS on the ship *HMS Bounty*. They set their leader, **Captain Bligh**, out to sea in a small boat while they remained on a tropical island in the Pacific.

mutt /mʌt/ *n infml* 1 a fool 2 esp. AmE a dog of no particular breed

mut-ter /'mʌtə/ *v* [I;T] to speak (usu. angry or complaining words) in a low voice, not easily heard: *He muttered a threat/a complaint.* | *Some members of the government are beginning to mutter about the prime minister.* —mutter *n* [S] —~er *n*

mut-ton /'mʌtn/ *n* [U] 1 the meat from a sheep —see MEAT (USAGE) 2 BrE **mutton dressed as lamb** an older person, esp. a woman, trying too hard to look young

mut-ton-chops /'mʌtn'tʃɒps/ also **mutton-chop whis-kers** /'.../ *n* [P] a beard worn on the sides of the cheeks, but not on the chin

mu-tu-al /'mjʊtʃuəl/ *adj* 1 having or based on the same relationship one towards the other: *their mutual dislike* (=she dislikes him and he dislikes her) | *I like her and I hope the feeling is mutual.* (=I hope she likes me) 2 equally shared by each one: *mutual interests* | *our mutual friend John* (=who is a friend of yours, and a friend of mine, too) | *an agreement that will be for our mutual benefit* —~ly *adv*: *The two beliefs are mutually exclusive.* (=if you hold one of them it is impossible to hold the other) —~ity /'mjʊtʃu'æləti/ *n* [U]

mutual fund /'.../ *n* AmE for UNIT TRUST

mux /mʌks/ *n infml* MULTIPLEXER

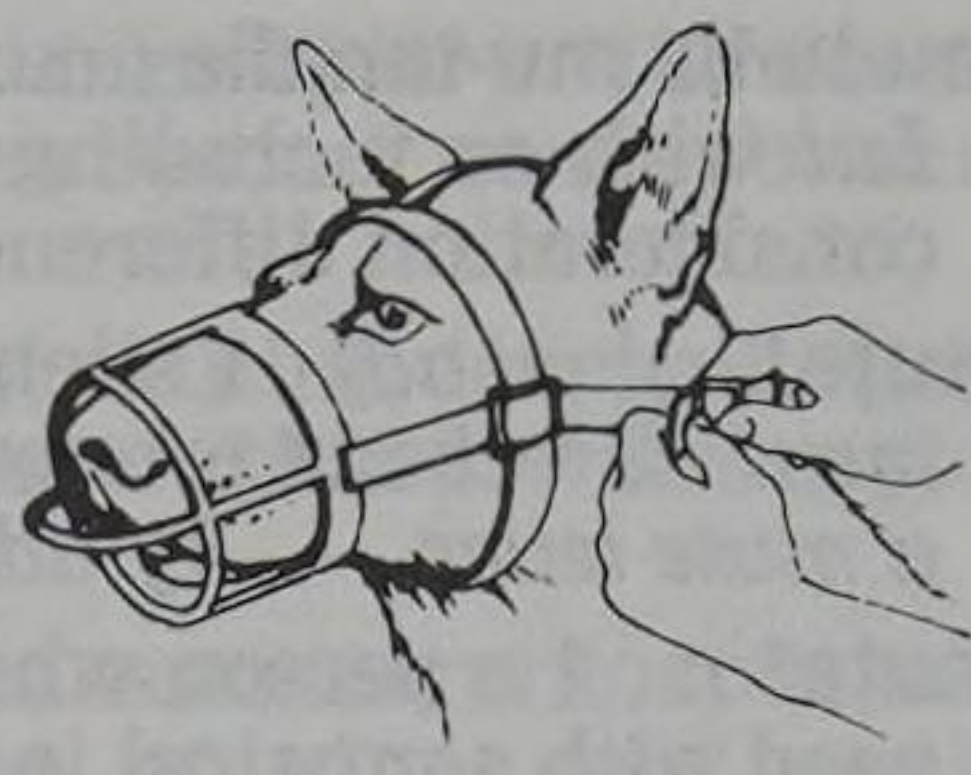
mu-zak /'mjuːzæk/ *n* [U] *tdmk* (often *cap.*) recorded background music played continuously in airports, hotels, shops, etc.. Muzak is disliked by some people and the word is sometimes used for music which is unexciting and which people do not really pay attention to.

muz-zle¹ /'mʌzəl/ *n* 1 the front part of an animal's face, with the nose and mouth —see picture at HORSE 2 a covering fastened round an animal's mouth, to prevent it from biting 3 the front end of a gun barrel —see picture at GUN

muzzle² *v* [T] 1 to put a muzzle on (an animal) 2 to force to keep silent: *The newspapers that opposed the junta were effectively muzzled by strict censorship laws.* See picture on page 878

muz-zy /'mʌzi/ *adj* 1 not clear; blurred (BLUR²): *The television picture's muzzy.* 2 not thinking clearly, perhaps

muzzle



because of illness or alcohol: *a muzzy head* — **zily** *adv* — **ziness** *n* [U]

MW written abbrev. for: MEDIUM WAVE

my /maɪ/ *determiner* (possessive form of I) **1** of or belonging to me: *my car* | *my mother* | *You should take my advice.* | *That's my problem, not yours.* **2** (used to show surprise or pleasure): *My (my)! What a clever boy you are!* **3** *my dear* polite or humor (a form of address): *My dear sir, I'm so sorry.* | *Come in, my dear.*

Myan-mar /'mjænmaːr/ also **Myanma** /-maː/ — a country on the Bay of Bengal in SE Asia, called **Burma** until 1988; capital Yangon; population 40,810,000 (1989) — **Myanmarese** /,mjænmaː'rɪz/ *n, adj*

My-ce-nae /maɪ'siːni/ a city in ancient Greece, where King Agamemnon is supposed to have lived. In the late 19th century many beautiful and ancient objects were found in the place where the destroyed city had once been.

my-col-o-gy /maɪ'kɒlədʒi/ — 'kɑː/ *n* [U] the study of fungi (FUNGUS)

My Coun-try 'Tis of Thee /ˌmɪˌkʌnˌtriːz/ a PATRIOTIC song learned by American children. It has the same tune as God Save the Queen and begins: *My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.*

My Fair La-dy /ˌmɪˌfaɪˌleɪ/ a musical play and film about a COCKNEY woman who is taught to speak and act in an UPPER-CLASS way by a bad-tempered PROFESSOR. It is based on the play *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw.

My Lai mas-sa-cre /ˌmiːˌlaɪˌmæsəkə/ [the] an event in the VIETNAM WAR in 1968 in which US soldiers cruelly killed the people of the village of My Lai, mostly old people, women, and children. The officer who ordered the killing was sentenced to life in prison, later reduced to 20 years.

my-nah, myna /ˌmaɪnə/ also **mynah bird** /'mɪnəˌbaɪd/ — *n* a large dark-coloured bird from Asia that can learn to make sounds like words

MYOB /ˌem waɪ əv 'biːz/ *v* [infinitive and imperative only] *AmE infml* mind your own business; to avoid getting involved in other peoples' affairs: *He asked me where I got the fifty bucks and I told him to MYOB.*

my-o-pi-a /maɪ'əʊpiə/ *n* [U] *fml* inability to see distant objects clearly — **pic** /maɪ'əʊpɪk/ — 'ɑːpɪk/ *adj* : (fig.) *myopic minds* — **pically** /kli/ *adv*

myr-i-ad /'mɪriəd/ *adj, n esp. lit* a great and varied number (of): *a myriad stars* | *Myriads of followers joined Gandhi's cause.*

myrrh /mɜːr/ *n* [U] a brown GUM² (1) obtained from trees, which is used in making PERFUME and INCENSE — see also **gold, frankincense, and myrrh** (GOLD¹ (5))

myr-tle /'mɜːtl̩||'mɜːr-/ *n* a small tree with shiny green leaves and sweet-smelling white flowers

my-self /maɪ'self/ *pron* **1** (reflexive form of I): *I hurt myself.* | *I'm pleased with myself.* **2** (strong form of I): *I'll do it myself, if you won't.* | *My husband and myself are both doctors.* | *I myself wrote it.* | *I'm afraid I can't help you, I'm a stranger here myself.* (=like you) **3** *infml* (in) my usual state of mind or body: *I feel more myself today.* (=not so ill as before) **4** (all) *by myself* alone, without help: *I carried it all by myself.* **5** *to myself* for my private use; not shared: *a bedroom to myself* — see YOURSELF (USAGE)

mys-te-ri-ous /mɪ'stɪəriəs/ *adj* **1** full of mystery; not easily understood: *The mysterious disappearance of my brother upset everyone.* **2** secret; hiding one's intentions: *He's being very mysterious about his future plans.* — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

mys-te-ry /'mɪstəri/ *n* **1** [C] something which cannot be explained or understood: *Her sudden disappearance was a complete mystery.* | *It's a mystery to me how she ever passed that exam!* **2** [U] a strange secret nature or quality: *stories full of mystery* **3** [C often pl.] a religious teaching or belief that is beyond human understanding or that is kept secret: *the ultimate mystery of God* **4** [C] an invented story about crime and murder: *I enjoy (reading) a good mystery.*

mystery play /'mɪstəriˌpleɪ/ *n* a MIRACLE PLAY

mystery tour /'mɪstəriˌtuə/ *n* a pleasure trip, usu. by bus, in which the travellers do not know where they will be taken

mys-tic /'mɪstɪk/ *n* a person who practises mysticism

mys-tic-al /'mɪstɪkəl/ also **mystic** — *adj* **1** concerning mysticism **2** of hidden religious or magic power: *mystical ceremonies* — **ly** /kli/ *adv*

mys-ti-cis-m /'mɪstɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] the attempt to gain, or practice of gaining, a knowledge of real truth and union with God by prayer and MEDITATION

mys-ti-fy /'mɪstɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] to make (someone) unable to understand or explain something; fill with wonder; completely BEWILDER: *I'm quite mystified — where can it be?* | *a strange case that mystified the police* — **fication** /ˌmɪstɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

mys-tique /mɪ'stɪk/ *n* [usu. sing.] a special quality that makes a person or thing seem mysterious and different, esp. causing admiration: *the mystique of the film industry*

myth /mɪθ/ *n* **1** [C] an ancient story that is based on popular beliefs or that explains natural or historical events **2** [U] such stories generally: *an idea common in myth* **3** [C] a widely believed but false story or idea: *the myth of male superiority* | *This report should explode the myth* (=show it to be false) *that high wages cause unemployment.* — compare LEGEND (1,2)

myth-i-cal /'mɪθɪkəl/ *adj* **1** of or in a myth: *mythical heroes of ancient Greece* **2** not real; imagined or invented

myth-o-lo-gi-cal /ˌmɪθə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ — 'lɑː/ *adj* **1** concerning the study of myths **2** in a myth; MYTHICAL (1)

my-thol-o-gy /mɪ'θɒlədʒi/ — 'θɑː/ *n* [C;U] myths in general and the beliefs which they contain: *He studies Greek and Roman mythology.* — **gist** *n*

myx-o-ma-to-sis /ˌmɪksəmə'təʊsɪs/ *n* [U] an illness which infects rabbits, usu. killing them

2 [C] a usu. offensive title for someone, often connected with their character: *to call someone names* (=say bad or rude things about them) **3** [S (for)] the opinion others have of one; REPUTATION: *The company has a (good) name for reliability.* | *The restaurant got a bad name because of its slow service.* | *She made a name for herself/made her name* (=became famous) *as a painter.* **4** [C] *sl* a well-known person (esp. in the phrases **big name**, **famous name**, etc.): *A big-name band will play at the wedding.* | *There were several famous names in the audience.* **5** in **name only** by title but not in fact: *She is his wife in name only; she lives abroad most of the time.* | *a democracy in name only* **6** in **the name of** by the right of or for the advantage of: *Open the door, in the name of the law!* | *cruel animal experiments that are carried on in the name of science* **7** **take someone's name in vain** often humor to speak disrespectfully about someone, without their knowledge, to another person **8** **the name of the game** *sl* the most important quality or object: *In fishing, patience is the name of the game.* **9** **to one's name** *infrm* (esp. with **no**, **not**, etc.) (esp. of money) as one's property: *He hasn't a penny to his name.* **10** **under the name (of)** using (a name) different from one's own: *H. H. Munro wrote under the name (of) Saki.* —see also **a rose by any other name** (ROSE² (4))

name² *v* [T] **1** to give a name to: *He was named after* (=given the same name as) *his father.* | (AmE) *The college is named for* (=given the same name as) *George Washington.* [+obj+n] *They named their daughter Sarah.* (=gave her the name Sarah) **2** to say what the name of (someone or something) is: *Can you name this plant?* | *The two murder victims have not yet been named (by the police).* | *Clothes, furniture, books — you name it, they sell it!* (=they sell everything that you could imagine) | *She has secret information about this scandal, and has threatened to name names.* (=give the actual names of people who have a part in it) **3** [(as, for)] to choose or appoint: *She's been named as the successor to the present manager.* | *We've named August 23rd for our wedding day.* | *"How much will you sell this for?" "Name your own price."* [+obj+n] *The President named him Secretary of State.*

Name *n* one of the Names, wealthy people who take the financial risk in an insurance contract set up by an UNDERWRITER at Lloyds of London. The Names usu. expect to make a profit, but in the early 1990s, owing to a number of very serious accidents, some of the Names lost a lot of money.

name day /'næmdeɪ/ *n* old use the date each year when the Christian church honours the SAINT (=holy person) that one is named after —compare SAINT'S DAY

name-drop /'neɪmdrɒp/ *v* -pp- [I] *infrm* derog to mention famous or important people's names in conversation to make it seem that one knows them personally — ~ **per** *n* — ~ **ping** *n* [U]

name-less /'neɪmləs/ *adj* **1** not known by name: ANONYMOUS: *the work of a nameless 13th century poet* | *It was given to me by a certain person who shall be nameless.* (=whose name I will not tell) **2** which has not been given a name: *some new and nameless plants* | *nameless fears* (=not clear enough to describe) **3** not marked by a name: *a nameless grave* **4** too terrible to name: *nameless crimes*

name-ly /'neɪmli/ *adv* (and) that is (to say): *Only one person can do the job, namely you.* | *There is one more topic to discuss, namely the question of your salary.* —compare I.E.; see VIZ. (USAGE)

▷ USAGE Compare **namely** and **that is to say** (often abbreviated to **i.e.**). Both terms can be used when you want to make clearer the meaning of something already said, but **namely** is the usual term before an expression which is more specific than what has already been said: *We visited two ancient cities, namely Nimes and Arles.* Before an expression which is less specific than what has already been said you can use only **i.e.**: *We visited Nimes and Arles, i.e. two ancient cities.* Use **i.e.** before an explanation which forms a complete sentence: *Arabic is written in the opposite direction to English, i.e. it is written from right to left.* ◀

name-plate /'neɪmpleɪt/ *n* a piece of metal or plastic fastened to something, showing the name of the owner or maker, or the person who lives or works in a place — see also DOORPLATE

name-sake /'neɪmsəɪk/ *n* **1** one of two or more people with the same name: *I often get letters meant for my namesake down the street; it's confusing that we're both called John Smith.* | *We're namesakes.* **2** a person who is named after someone else: *My niece is my namesake.*

Na-mib-i-a /nə'mɪbiə/ a country in SW Africa, also known as **South West Africa**, bordered by Angola to the N, Zambia to the NE, Botswana to the E, South Africa to the SE, and the Atlantic Ocean to the W; capital Windhoek; population 1,300,000 (1990) —**bian** *n*, *adj*

nan, **naan** /nɑ:n/ [U] *n* a type of bread eaten with Indian food

nan-ny /'næni/ *n* **1** a woman employed to take care of the children in a family, usu. in the children's own home

► CULTURAL NOTE The STEREOTYPE of a nanny is a middle-aged woman employed by rich people. She is very firm, knows many old sayings and stories, calls the children "Master" or "Miss", and speaks to them in a particular way: *Now, Master James, if we (= you) don't eat our cabbage, we don't get any pudding, do we?* In stories she is often more important to the children than their mother. ◀

2 also **nan** /næn/ BrE— (used by or to children) a grandmother: *Give Nanny a kiss!* | *It's my nan's birthday tomorrow.*

nanny goat /'næni goʊt/ *n* (used esp. by or to children) a female goat —compare BILLY GOAT

nanny state /'næni steɪt/ *n* BrE derog a government which controls the lives of its citizens while offering them a reasonable standard of living

nano- —see WORD FORMATION

nan-o-tech-nol-o-gy /'nænəutek,nɒlədʒi/ *n* [C;U] machinery, methods, etc. which can perform processes extremely quickly or make or measure objects which are extremely small: *Computer circuitry now includes advanced processes made possible by nanotechnology.*

Nan-tuck-et /næn'tʌkɪt/ an island off the coast of Massachusetts, US, where many wealthy people have summer homes

nap¹ /næp/ *n* a short sleep, esp. during the day: *Father always takes/has a nap in the afternoon.* —compare SIESTA

nap² *v* -pp- [I] **1** to take a nap **2** **catch someone napping** *infrm* to find, or take advantage of, someone when they are unprepared or not doing their duty

nap³ *n* [usu. sing.] the soft furry surface on some cloth and leather, made by brushing the short fine threads or hairs in one direction —compare PILE³

na-palm /'neɪpɑ:m/ *n* [U] a jelly made from petrol, which burns fiercely and is used in bombs

nape /neɪp/ *n* [usu. sing.] the back (of the neck)

naph-tha /'næfθə/ *n* [U] any of various liquid HYDROCARBONS used for starting fires, removing spots of dirt from clothes, etc.

nap-kin /'næpkɪn/ *n* **1** a usu. square piece of cloth or paper used for protecting one's clothes and for cleaning one's hands and lips during a meal —see picture at PLACE SETTING **2** BrE *fml* a baby's NAPPY

napkin ring /'næpkɪn rɪŋ/ *n* a small ring in which a napkin is rolled and kept for the use of one particular person

Na-ples /'neɪpəlz/ an industrial city and port in S central Italy, on the Bay of Naples

Na-po-le-on /nə'pəʊliən/ (1769–1821) the EMPEROR of France from 1804 to 1815, whose full name was Napoleon Bonaparte. He was a powerful military leader, defeating many other European countries in the Napoleonic Wars and building a European EMPIRE, and also a skilled politician, inventing the **Code Napoléon** which remains a guide to

law in several European countries today. He attacked Russia in 1812 but was defeated. On his way back (the **Retreat from Moscow**) many soldiers died from cold and hunger. He was finally defeated at the Battle of Waterloo and died in EXILE. He is believed to have used the phrase "not tonight, Josephine" when refusing his

Napoleon



lover Josephine's desire for sex. —see colour picture on page 1015

Na-po-le-on-ic Wars /nə,pəʊlɪənɪk 'wɔːz/-ɑːnɪk 'wɔːr/ [the + P] (1799–1815) the wars fought between France, under the control of Napoleon Bonaparte, and other European countries, esp. Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Britain

nap-py /'næpi/ *BrE* || **diaper** *AmE*— *n* a piece of soft cloth or paper worn between the legs and fastened around the waist of a baby to hold its EXCRETA (=liquid and solid waste)

nappy rash /'..-/ *BrE* || **diaper rash** *AmE*— *n* [U] soreness of the skin between a baby's legs caused by the contents of its nappy

narc /'nɑːk || nɑːrk/ *n AmE* for NARK¹

nar-cis-sis-m /'nɑːsɪsɪzəm||'nɑːr-/ *n* [U] too great love for one's own abilities or physical appearance —**sist** *n* —**sistic** /,nɑːsɪ'sɪstɪk||,nɑːr-/ *adj*

nar-cis-sus /nɑː'sɪsəs||nɑːr-/ *n* —**suses** or —**si** /saɪ/ a white or yellow spring flower, such as the DAFFODIL

Narcissus in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a very attractive young man who fell in love with his own REFLECTION and died as a result. He was turned into a flower.

nar-cot-ic /nɑː'kɒtɪk||nɑːr'kɑː-/ *n* [often *pl.*] a drug which in small amounts causes sleep or takes away pain, and in large amounts is harmful and habit-forming: *He was sent to prison on a narcotics charge.* (=an offence concerning selling or using these drugs)

narcotic² *adj* **1** taking away pain or esp. causing sleep: *a narcotic drink* **2** [A *no comp.*] of or related to drugs: *narcotic addiction*

nark¹ /nɑːk||nɑːrk/ also **narc** *AmE*— *n sl* a person who mixes with criminals and secretly reports on them to the police; a STOOLPIGEON

nark² *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *BrE sl* to annoy; make angry: *I was rather narked at/by what she said.*

nark-y /'nɑːki||'nɑːr-/ *adj BrE sl* bad-tempered

Nar-ni-a /'nɑːniə||'nɑːr-/ an imaginary land of magic people and animals visited by four children in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and other books written by C S Lewis

nar-rate /nə'reɪt||'næreɪt, nə'reɪt, nə-/ *v* [T] *fml* to tell (a story); describe (an event or events) in order

nar-ra-tion /nə'reɪʃən||næ-, nə-/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (the telling of) a story

nar-ra-tive /'nærətɪv/ *n* **1** [C;U] *rather fml* that which is narrated; account of events: *a narrative of their exciting journey* | *Narrative makes up most of the book.* **2** [U] the art of narrating: *The writer had great skill in narrative.* —**narrative** *adj* : *a narrative poem*

nar-ra-tor /nə'reɪtər||'næreɪ-, nə'reɪtər, nə-/ *n* **1** a person in some books, television shows, plays, etc., who tells the story or explains what is happening **2** *fml* a person who tells a story; STORYTELLER

nar-row¹ /'nærəʊ/ *adj* **1** small from one side to the other, esp. in comparison with length or with what is usual; not wide: *a narrow road/river* | *a gateway too narrow for a car to get through* —compare BROAD¹ (1) **2** limited in range or effect: *narrow ideas* | *about religion* | *The decision was taken for narrow economic reasons, without considering its social effects.* —see also NARROW-MINDED **3** almost not enough or only just successful: *to win by a narrow majority* | *a narrow escape* —compare CLOSE² (7) **4** *fml* careful and thorough; PAINSTAKING: *a narrow examination of the facts* —see also NARROWLY, NARROWS, STRAIGHT AND NARROW; see THIN¹ (USAGE) — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

narrow² *v* **1** [I;T] to make or become narrower: *The river narrows at this point.* | *new tax laws that will narrow the gap between rich and poor* **2** [T (DOWN)] to limit the range of; RESTRICT: *The police have now narrowed down their list of suspects.* —compare WIDEN

narrow boat /'..-/ *n BrE* a long narrow boat for use on CANALS

narrow gauge /'..-/ *n* a size of railway track of less than standard width, the most famous British examples of which are in Wales, e.g. the Tal-y-Lyn and Ffestiniog Railways —see also GAUGE¹ (3)

nar-row-ly /'nærəʊli/ *adv* **1** only just; hardly: *We narrowly missed hitting the other car.* **2** *fml* in a thorough and usu.

doubting way: *The teacher questioned the boy narrowly about why he was late.*

narrow-minded /'..-'..-||'..-/ *adj derog* showing unwillingness to accept or understand new or different ideas, customs, etc.; PREJUDICED —opposite **broadminded**; compare SMALL-MINDED — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

nar-rows /'nærəʊz/ *n* [P] (often *cap. as part of name*) a narrow passage between two larger areas of water: *the Narrows of New York harbour*

narrow squeak /'..-'..-/ *BrE* || **narrow miss** *AmE*— *n infml* a situation in which something dangerous or very unpleasant is only just avoided: *The bus missed crashing into the cyclist by a narrow squeak.*

na-ry /'neəri/ *adv AmE infml* NOT (4); not one: *I looked all over the house but there was nary a soul* (=not a person) anywhere.

NASA /'næsə/ National Aeronautics and Space Administration; a US government organization that controls space travel and the scientific study of space

na-sal¹ /'neɪzəl/ *n, adj tech* (a speech sound such as /m/, /n/, or /ŋ/) made through the nose

nasal² *adj* **1** of the nose: *to breathe through the nasal passage* **2** making nasal sounds: *His voice is very nasal.* — ~ **ly** /'neɪzəli/ *adv*

nas-cent /'næsənt/ *adj fml* coming into existence or starting to develop: *nascent ability in music*

Nash /næʃ/, **John-ny** /'dʒɒni||'dʒɑː-/ (1940–) an American singer and song-writer known for such songs as *I Can See Clearly Now*

Nash, Og-den /'ɒgdən||'ɔːg-/ (1902–71) an American poet who wrote amusing poems

Nash-ville /'næʃvɪl/ the capital city of the state of Tennessee, US, famous as the centre of the COUNTRY AND WESTERN music industry —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Nas-ser /'næsəʃ/, **Ga-mal Ab-dal** /gə'maːl 'æbdəl/ (1918–70) an Egyptian politician and army officer who was the first president of the republic of Egypt (1956–70)

Na-sta-se /nə'stɑːzi/, **Il-ie** /'ɪli/ (1946–) a tennis player originally from Romania

nas-tur-tium /nə'stɜːʃəm||-zɜːr-/ *n* a common garden plant with orange, yellow, or red flowers and circular leaves

nas-ty /'nɑːsti||'næsti/ *adj* **1** a angry or threatening: *a nasty temper* | *He turned nasty* (=started to threaten me) *when I said I couldn't pay him.* **b** unkind; mean; MALICIOUS: *Don't be so nasty to her!* | *saying nasty things about their neighbours* **2** very ugly or unpleasant to see, taste, smell, etc.: *cheap and nasty furniture* | *nasty weather* | *a nasty smell* **3** dangerous or painful; severe: *a nasty accident with one person killed* | *a nasty cut on the head* | *It gave me a nasty shock.* | *a nasty situation* **4** morally bad or offensive; OBSCENE: *You've got a nasty mind.* —see also VIDEO NASTY —**tily** *adv* —**tininess** *n* [U]

na-tal /'neɪtl/ *adj* [A] (esp. in *comb.*) connected with someone's birth: (pomp) *her natal day* (=birthday) | *pre- and post-natal care* (=care before and after birth)

na-tion /'neɪʃən/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a large group of people living in one area and usu. having an independent government: *The President spoke on radio to the nation.* | *The whole nation is/are rejoicing.* —compare COUNTRY¹ (1) **2** a large group of people with the same race and language: *the Cherokee/Kurdish nation* —see RACE (USAGE)

Nation, Car-rie /'kæri/ (1846–1911) an American social activist who believed that people should not drink alcohol because of its harmful effects. She often went to bars and damaged them.

na-tion-al¹ /'næʃənəl/ *adj* **1** of or being a nation, esp. as opposed to a any of its parts: *a national newspaper* (=one read everywhere in the country) | *This is a local problem not a national one.* **b** another nation or other nations: *The national news comes after the international news.* | *trade protection policies that will safeguard our national interests* **2** owned or controlled by the central government of a country: *a national bank* | *the National Health Service* — ~ **ly** *adv*

national² *n* a person, esp. someone abroad, who belongs to another, usu. stated, country: *American nationals in England* | *Foreign nationals were asked to leave the country.* —compare ALIEN² (2), CITIZEN (2), SUBJECT¹ (5)

National **1** [the] the GRAND NATIONAL **2** [the] the NATIONAL

THEATRE 3 one of the airports serving the Washington DC area, used mostly for flights within the US

national an-them /,næʃənəl'ænm/ *n* the official song of a nation, to be sung or played on certain formal occasions. The British national anthem is *God Save the King (Queen)*; the American one is the **STAR-SPANGLED BANNER**

National As-so-ci-a-tion for the Ad-vance-ment of Col-ored Peo-ple /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ NAACP

National Bas-ket-ball As-so-ci-a-tion /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ NBA

National Can-cer In-sti-tute /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] an American organization that works to find the causes, treatments, and cures for cancer

National Child-birth Trust /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ (abbrev. NCT) [the] a British organization which aims to educate people about how children are born and about the work of being a parent

National Coal Board /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] the former name (1947–87) of British Coal

National Col-le-gi-ate Ath-let-ic As-so-ci-a-tion /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ NCAA

national cos-tume /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ *n* [C;U] also **national dress** /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [U]—clothing traditionally (TRADITIONAL) worn by the people of a country. In some parts of the world people still wear their national costume as their ordinary clothing, but in most places it is only worn on special occasions: *folk dancers in national dress* | *Unlike Scotland and Wales, England does not have a national costume.*—see picture at **COSTUME**

National Coun-cil for Civ-il Lib-er-ties /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] the name before 1989 of the organization now called **Liberty**

national cur-ric-u-lum /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] (often *cap.*) the CURRICULUM (=programme of study) which is meant to be followed by all STATE SCHOOLS in England and Wales. The government tells schools what subjects must be studied and what standards should be achieved by the pupils. All pupils have examinations in these subjects at the ages of 7, 11, 14 and 16. Schools must teach the national curriculum but may teach additional subjects if they wish and if they can afford to. The contents of the national curriculum have caused some disagreement between teachers and the government. —see also extra information on page 408

national debt /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ *n* the total amount of money owed by the government of a country

National Ed-u-ca-tion As-so-ci-a-tion /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] see NEA¹

National En-dow-ment for the Arts /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ (abbrev. NEA) [the] an American government organization which provides money for artists to help them in their work

National En-dow-ment for the Hu-man-i-ties /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] an American government organization which provides money for writers and other people working in the HUMANITIES to help them with their work

National En-quir-er /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] a weekly American colour newspaper that features often unbelievable stories about famous people and the SUPERNATURAL

National Ex-ec-u-tive Com-mit-tee /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ (abbrev. NEC) [the] the group elected by the Labour Party and the unions which makes decisions on the party's POLICY

National Ex-hi-bi-tion Cen-tre /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ (abbrev. NEC) [the] a large centre in Birmingham, specially built as a place where CONFERENCES and EXHIBITIONS are held

National Ex-press /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ a British company which runs coaches (COACH¹ (1), =a comfortable bus for making long journeys) connecting most towns in Britain

National Farm-ers U-nion /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ (abbrev. NFU) [the] one of two British organizations, one in England and Wales and one in Scotland, which advise and support farmers but are not TRADE UNIONS

National Film Thea-tre /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ (abbrev. NFT) [the] a centre on London's South Bank which is run by the British Film Institute and contains two cinemas which show films of historical, CULTURAL, and artistic interest

National Foun-da-tion of the Arts and the Hu-man-i-ties /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ an American government organization which develops and supports arts and HUMANITIES. It works with the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

National Front /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] an extreme RIGHT-WING political party in Britain which believes that white people should have more rights than black and Asian people who live in Britain

National Gal-le-ry /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] an art GALLERY in Trafalgar Square, London, which contains the largest permanent collection of western paintings in Britain, most of which were painted between 1200 and 1900—see colour map on page 817

National Gal-le-ry of Art /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] a large MUSEUM of paintings, SCULPTURE, and other art in Washington DC which is supported by the US government

National Gar-den Fes-ti-val /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] a show of garden plants and equipment held every two years in a different city or large town in Britain

National Ge-o-graph-ic /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] a popular American monthly magazine produced by the **National Geographic Society**. It has stories and pictures from interesting places around the world, and sometimes includes large maps.

national gov-ern-ment /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ *n* *tech* a government formed by most or all of the political parties in a country, esp. during a war

national grid /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] 1 (in Britain) the NETWORK of electricity supply wires connecting power stations 2 the system of numbered squares printed on a map to show the exact position of a place

National Guard /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ [the] a military force in each state of the US which can be called up for service by the state or the US government: *The governor called out the National Guard to help control the flooding/riots.*—compare TERRITORIAL ARMY

National Health Ser-vi-ce /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ (abbrev. NHS, also **Health Service**) [the] the British system of medical treatment for everyone, paid for by taxes—see also extra information on page 826

National Her-i-tage /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ a British organization which gives money from the **National Heritage Memorial Fund**, provided by the government, to MUSEUMS and other institutions to help them buy things and keep buildings, etc. of historic interest in good condition

National In-sur-ance /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ (abbrev. NI) *n* [U] (in Britain) a system of insurance run by the government, into which workers and employers make regular payments, and which provides money for people who are unemployed, old, or ill. Every adult in Britain has a National Insurance Number, and all people in employment and their employers have to make payments called **National Insurance Contributions**.

National In-sur-ance Num-ber /,næʃənəl'æʃən'ædvənsmənt'of'kɒlərd'pi:pl/ *n* a number which everyone in Britain is given when they are old enough to work. It is used by the Department of Social Security and the Inland Revenue to IDENTIFY the person.

na-tion-al-is-m /'næʃənəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] 1 *sometimes derog* love of and pride in one's own country, esp. believing it to be better than any other country 2 desire by a NATIONALITY (2) to form an independent country: *Scottish nationalism*

na-tion-al-ist /'næʃənəlɪst/ *n* 1 a person believing in NATIONALISM (2) 2 (*usu. cap.*) a member of a political group which wants national independence or strong national government: *Basque nationalists* | *In China the Nationalists were defeated by the Communists in 1949.*

nationalist² *adj* believing in NATIONALISM (2): *the nationalist party in Wales*

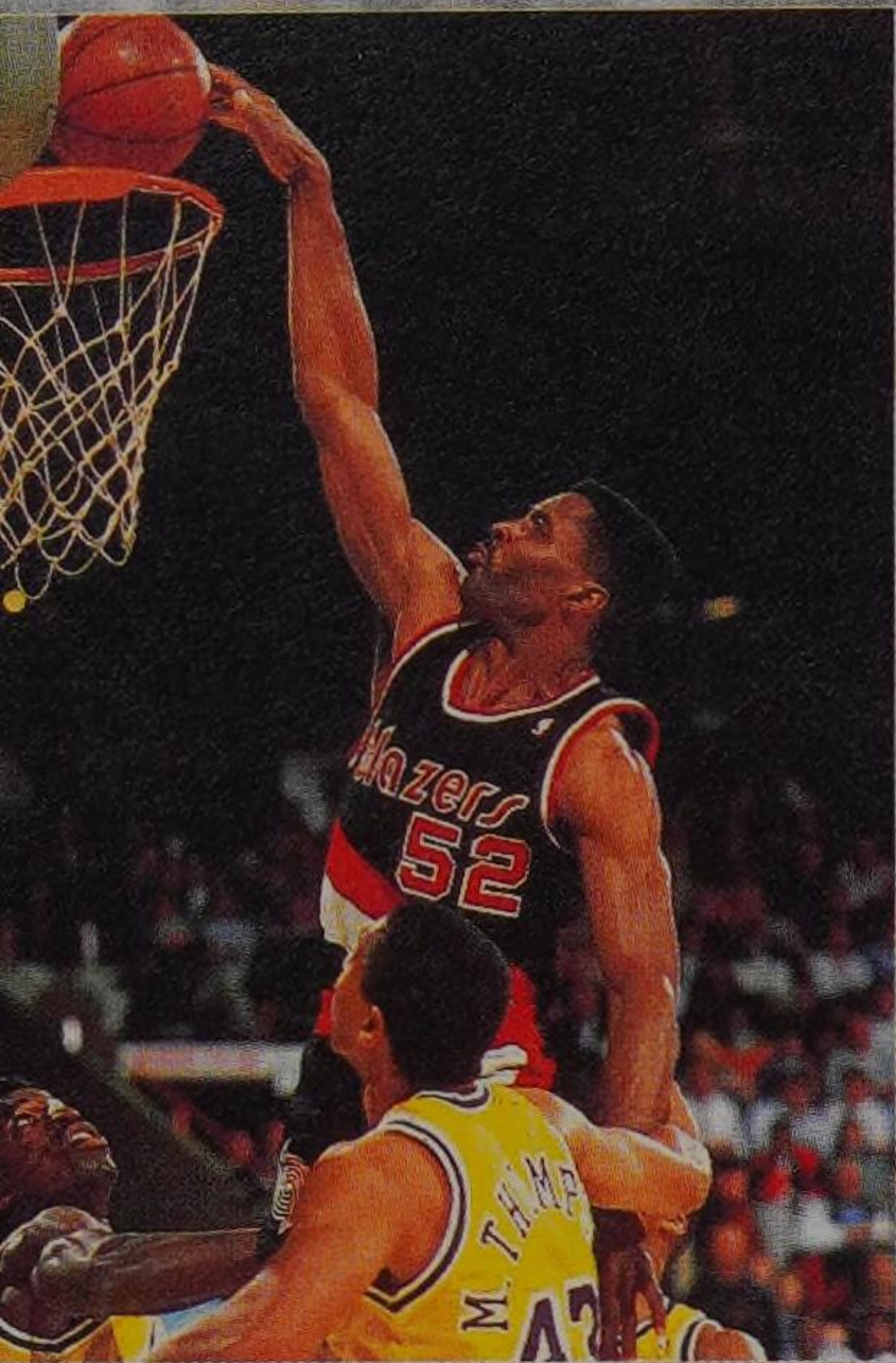
na-tion-al-is-tic /'næʃənəlɪstɪk/ *adj* often *derog* of or showing (too) great love of one's country: *a nationalistic election speech*—~ally /kli/ *adv*

na-tion-al-i-ty /'næʃənəlɪti/ *n* 1 [C;U] the fact of being a citizen of a particular country: *She lives in France but has British nationality* (=she is legally a citizen of Britain, not France). | *people of many different nationalities/of the same nationality* | *His mother's French and his father's Spanish, so he has dual nationality* (=he is a citizen of France and Spain) 2 [C] a large group of people with the same race, origin, language, etc.: *the different nationalities of the USSR*

na-tion-al-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'næʃənəlaɪz/ *v* [T] (of a central government) to buy or take control of (a business, industry, etc.): *The British government nationalized the*



Athletics (*BrE*) (or track and field (*AmE*)) is the general name given to the kind of sports and physical exercises shown here. Athletics includes both track events (= running races) and field events (= sports involving jumping, throwing things, etc. which are not races). Most field events are named according to distance, e.g. She's running in the 400 metres. (= running in a race over a distance of 400 metres). The person who comes first in an event wins a gold medal, the person who comes second wins a silver medal and the person who comes third wins a bronze medal. People usually talk about somebody winning 'the gold', 'the silver' or 'the bronze', e.g. He won the gold in the 100 metres. / She won a bronze in the javelin.



basketball



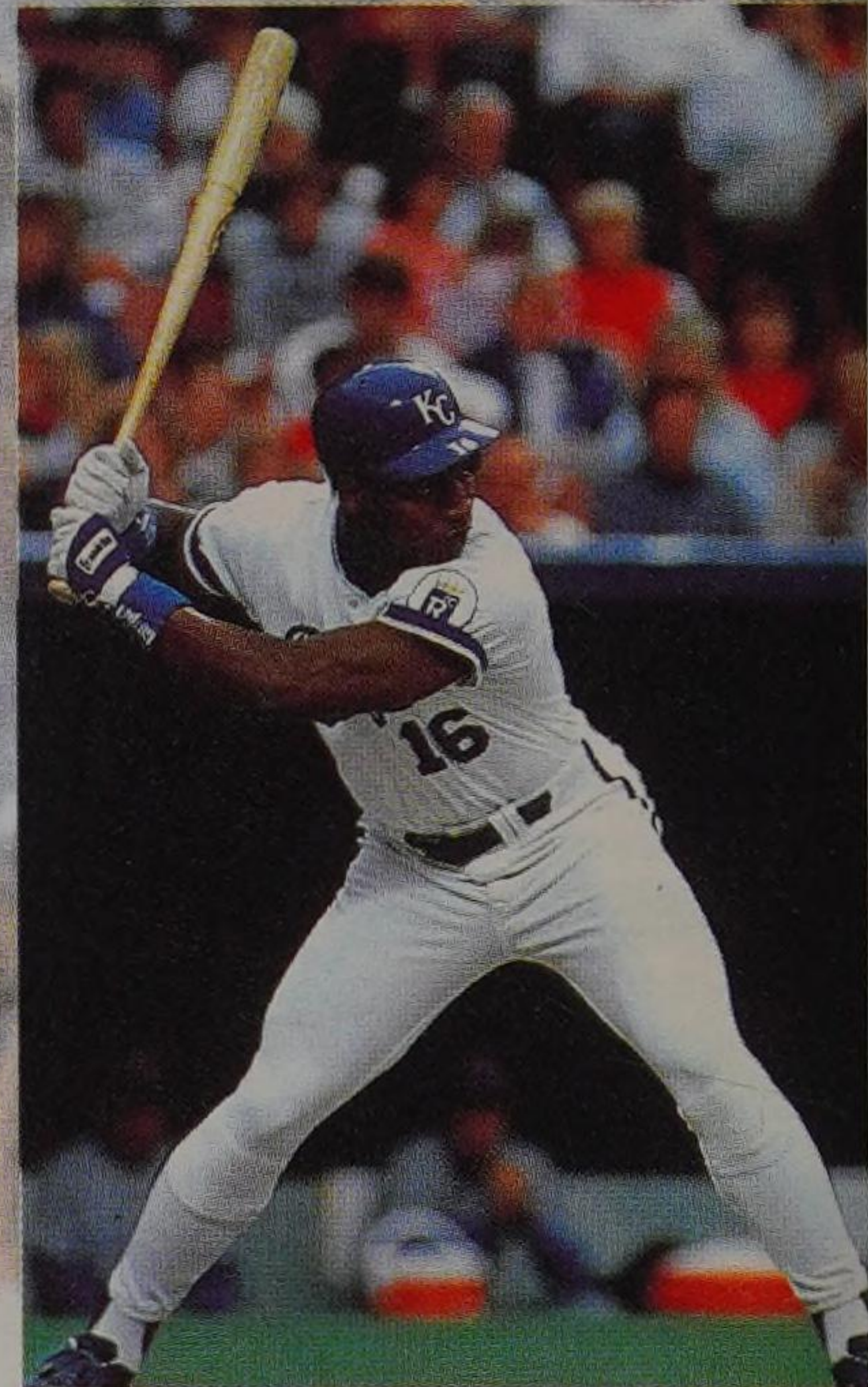
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rugby



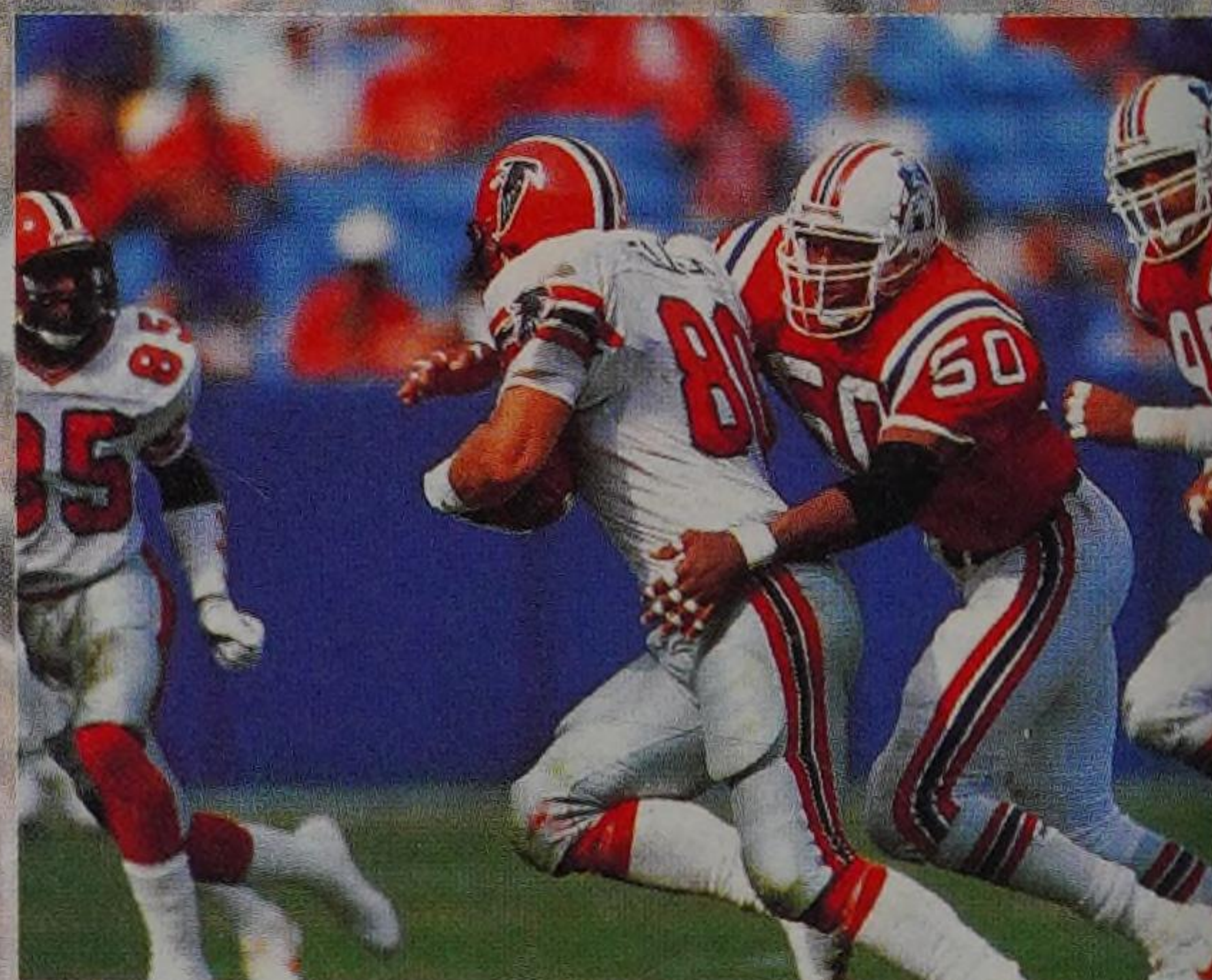
cricket



baseball



football (BrE) soccer (AmE)



American football (BrE) football (AmE)

railways in 1948. —opposites **denationalize**, **privatize** —**ization** /ˌnæʃənəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/ -nəle-/ *n* [U]

nationalized in-dus-try /ˌnæʃənəlaɪzɪd 'ɪndʌstri/ *n* an industry which is owned by the state and controlled by the central government. Nationalized industries are usu. those which are important to the country, and may be supported by the government's money.

National La-bor Re-la-tions Board /ˌnæʃənəl 'leɪə rɪleɪʃnz bɔːd/ (abbrev. **NLRB**) [*the*] a US government office that tries to settle differences between unions and management, esp. in large companies

National Lam-poon /ˌnæʃənəl 'læmpun/ an American magazine read mostly by young people which uses humour and SATIRE that some esp. older or religious people find offensive

National League /ˌnæʃənəl 'liːg/ a group of professional US BASEBALL teams which play against each other —see also BASEBALL

National Mar-i-time Mu-se-um /ˌnæʃənəl 'maɪtɪm muːziəm/ [*the*] a MUSEUM in Greenwich, S London, with models and pictures of British ships, and things connected with the sea, sailing, and famous seamen

national park /ˌnæʃənəl 'pɑːk/ *n* (often caps.) an area of natural, historical, or scientific interest which is kept by the government for people to visit: *Yosemite National Park*

National Or-gan-i-za-tion for Wom-en /ˌnæʃənəl 'ɔːrɡənə'zeɪʃən/ see NOW

National Por-trait Gal-le-ry /ˌnæʃənəl 'pɔːtreɪt ɡæləri/ [*the*] an art GALLERY in Trafalgar Square in London which contains many pictures of famous men and women in British history and CULTURE

National Pow-er /ˌnæʃənəl 'paʊə/ one of the two main companies which produce electricity in Britain —see also POWERGEN

National Pub-lic Ra-di-o /ˌnæʃənəl 'pʌblɪk reɪdɪo/ (abbrev. **NPR**) a network of independent US radio stations which is supported financially by people that listen to it; it is popular for its excellent and interesting programmes on news and current affairs

National Ri-ple As-so-ci-a-tion /ˌnæʃənəl 'rɪplə ə'soʊʃi-ə'tiən/ (abbrev. **NRA**) [*the*] an American organization which supports and defends people's rights to buy and keep guns. People connect the NRA with the GUN LOBBY and think it is responsible for ensuring that gun control laws are always defeated in Congress.

National Sav-ings Bank /ˌnæʃənəl 'sævɪŋz bɑːk/ [*the*] a savings bank run by the British Post Office, which offers National Savings Certificates and Premium Bonds as ways of investing (INVEST) money

National Sav-ings Cer-tif-i-cates /ˌnæʃənəl 'sævɪŋz sɜːtɪfɪkət/ *n* [P] CERTIFICATES (=official papers) sold by the Post Office, which show that the buyer has lent money to the National Savings Bank and will get interest on the money until the certificates are sold back, usu. after a fixed period of years

National Sci-ence Foun-da-tion /ˌnæʃənəl 'saɪəns faʊn'deɪʃən/ [*the*] a US government organization that provides money and guidance for scientific study

national se-cu-ri-ty /ˌnæʃənəl 'siːkjərɪti/ *n* [U] the safety of a nation against its enemies. Providing for national security usu. means having weapons and armies to defend the nation: *Well over half of public money is spent on weapons for national security.*

National Se-cu-ri-ty Coun-cil /ˌnæʃənəl 'siːkjərɪti kaʊn-səl/ [*the*] a council in the US which controls the relationship between the defence and foreign departments of the government

national ser-vice /ˌnæʃənəl 'sɜːvɪs/ *n* *BrE* || **draft** *AmE*— [U] (often caps.) the system, no longer current in Britain or the US, of making all men (and sometimes all women) serve in the armed forces for a limited period: *He did his national service in the navy.*

National Thea-tre /ˌnæʃənəl 'θiːətreɪ/ abbrev. **NT**, full name **Royal National Theatre**— [*the*] a modern building on London's South Bank containing three theatres. It is the home of the **Royal National Theatre Company**, who perform a wide variety of old and new plays. The theatre is very popular and attracts many tourists, although many people think the building is ugly. —see colour map on page 817

National Trust /ˌnæʃənəl 'trʌst/ (abbrev. **NT**) [*the*] a British organization (CHARITY) which owns and takes care of many beautiful places and historic buildings in England and

Wales, which people may visit. A similar organization, the **National Trust for Scotland**, owns and takes care of places in Scotland. —compare ENGLISH HERITAGE

National U-nion of Jour-nal-ists /ˌnæʃənəl 'juːnɪən ɒf ˌdʒɜːnlə'zɪz/ (abbrev. **NUJ**) [*the*] a British TRADE UNION which represents JOURNALISTS (=writers of newspapers) and similar workers

National U-nion of Mine-work-ers /ˌnæʃənəl 'juːnɪən ɒf maɪn'wɜːkəz/ (abbrev. **NUM**) [*the*] a British TRADE UNION which represents many workers in the coal industry, well-known in Britain for arranging the Miners' Strike of 1984–85

National U-nion of Pub-lic Em-ploy-ees /ˌnæʃənəl 'juːnɪən ɒf pʌblɪk ɪm'plɔɪiːz/ (abbrev. **NUPE**) [*the*] a British TRADE UNION which represents a wide range of people who work for local authorities (LOCAL AUTHORITY) and the National Health Service

National U-nion of Rail-way-men /ˌnæʃənəl 'juːnɪən ɒf reɪl'weɪmən/ (abbrev. **NUR**) [*the*] a British TRADE UNION which represents railway workers

National U-nion of Stu-dents /ˌnæʃənəl 'juːnɪən ɒf stjuːdnts/ (abbrev. **NUS**) [*the*] a British organization that represents students in universities and colleges. It campaigns (CAMPAIGN) nationally for students' rights, and also arranges entertainments, advice centres, etc. at colleges and universities —compare STUDENTS' UNION

National U-nion of Teach-ers /ˌnæʃənəl 'juːnɪən ɒf tiːtʃəz/ (abbrev. **NUT**) [*the*] a professional organization which is part of the TUC and represents teachers in England and Wales, both in state-run and private schools

National Weath-er Ser-vice /ˌnæʃənəl 'wiːðə sɜːvɪs/ [*the*] the US government office that makes weather maps, tells what the weather will be like, and gives warnings when dangerous weather is on its way —compare METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

National West-min-ster Bank /ˌnæʃənəl 'westmɪnstə bɑːk/ also **Nat West**— [*the*] one of the main British banks, branches of which are found in many towns and cities in Britain

National Youth Or-ches-tra /ˌnæʃənəl 'juːθ ɔːrkestrə/ [*the*] an ORCHESTRA for young musicians and music students in Britain

National Youth Thea-tre /ˌnæʃənəl 'juːθ θiːətreɪ/ [*the*] a theatre group for young actors in London

Nation of Is-lam /ˌnæʃən ɒf 'ɪslɑːm/ [*the*] the official name of the Black Muslims —see BLACK MUSLIMS

nation state /ˌnæʃən 'steɪt/ *n* a nation forming a politically independent country —compare CITY-STATE

na-tion-wide /ˌneɪʃən'waɪd/, 'neɪʃənwaɪd/ *adj* (used esp. in newspapers, on the radio, etc.) happening, existing, etc., over a whole country; **NATIONAL**: *a nationwide search for the criminals* | *a nationwide broadcast* (=heard everywhere in the country) —**nationwide** *adv*: *The President's speech will be broadcast nationwide.*

Na-tion-wide /ˌneɪʃən'waɪd/ also **Nationwide An-gli-a** /ˌnæʃənəl 'æŋɡli-ə/ — [*the*] a British BUILDING SOCIETY, branches of which are found in many towns and cities in Britain

na-tive¹ /ˌneɪtɪv/ *adj* **1** [A] belonging to or being the place of one's birth: *her native language* | *a visit by the Pope to his native Poland* **2** [A] (of a person) belonging to a place from birth: *a native New Yorker* **3** [(to)] growing, living, produced, found, etc., in a place; not brought in from another place; **INDIGENOUS**: *a plant native to the eastern US* | *a house built of native stone* **4** [(to)] (of a quality) belonging to someone from birth; not learned; **INNATE**: *native ability* **5** [A] of or concerning the original people, esp. the non-Europeans, of a place: *a native village* —see also NATIVE AMERICAN **6 go native** *infml*, often humor (esp. of tourists) to live in the manner of the people who usually live in a place: *In Scotland he tried to go native by wearing a kilt.*

native² *n* **1** [(of)] someone who was born in a place: *a native of California* **2** someone who lives in a place all the time or has lived there a long time: *Are you a native here, or just a visitor?* **3** [often pl.] (esp. used by Europeans of non-Europeans) one of the original people living in a place: *The government of the island treated the natives badly.* **4** [(of)] a plant or animal living naturally in a place: *The bear was once a native of Britain.*

Native A-mer-i-can /ˌneɪtɪv ə'merɪkən/ also **American Indian**, **Amerindian**— *n* a member of any of the original peoples of America, esp. of the US and Canada. Native Americans came from many different TRIBES (=groups of people who are related), each having its own language and CULTURE.

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Native Americans have often been shown, esp. in films, as cruel and warlike people, although recently books and films have tried to show them more favourably and to present their point of view. Most Native Americans suffered greatly from European settlers moving onto their lands, and fought to defend themselves and their way of life; this is still happening in parts of S America. In N America Native Americans were forced to leave their lands and live on RESERVATIONS (= areas of land set aside for them). Most still live on reservations, many are very poor and have problems resulting from unemployment and drinking alcohol. Many tribes are working to improve conditions on the reservations, and some are also trying to bring back old customs and religious practices. ◀

► **USAGE** **Native American** is now the preferred and usual term. **American Indian** and **Amerindian** are still used, esp. in British English and referring to Native Americans from S America. **Red Indian** is old-fashioned and usu. considered offensive. ◀

native speaker /ˌnæ.tɪvˈspiːkər/ *n* a person who has learned (a particular language) from birth, usu. as a result of having parents who speak it and living in a country where most people speak it: *a native speaker of English/an English native speaker/native-speaker English*

na-tiv-i-ty /nəˈtɪvɪti/ *n* *fml* or *pomp* birth: *the place of my nativity*

Nativity *n* 1 [*the*] the birth of Jesus Christ, sometimes also called “the Christmas story”. According to the story in the Bible, Mary and Joseph have to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem for a CENSUS. There are no empty rooms in Bethlehem, so they have to stay in a STABLE. The phrase “no room at the INN” is often used when talking about this part of the story. Jesus is born in the stable, and he is laid in a MANGER (=a container for food for animals) instead of a bed. A bright star (the Star of Bethlehem) appears in the sky when Jesus is born, to show the way to the place of his birth. SHEPHERDS (=people who take care of sheep) nearby are told about the baby Jesus by an angel (=a messenger of God) and told to go to the stable to worship him. Three kings (also called “the Three Wise Men”) from the East also come to worship him, following the bright star and bringing gifts of gold, FRANKINCENSE, and MYRRH. 2 [C] a picture of the scene of the birth of Jesus Christ. Pictures or models (CRIBS) of the Nativity scene usu. show the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph), animals in the stable (usu. an ox and an ASS), the shepherds, and the three kings. —see picture on page 224

nativity play /ˌnæ.tɪvɪˈteɪ/ *n* (often *cap.*) a play telling the story of the Nativity, esp. one performed by young children at school at Christmas time —compare PASSION PLAY

NATO /ˈneɪtəʊ/ the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; a group of countries including Britain, the US, and some Scandinavian and European countries, which give military help to each other: *our allies in NATO*

NATSOPA /nætˈsəʊpə/ National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel; a trade union for people working in these jobs

nat-ter /ˈnætə/ *v* [I (AWAY, ON)] *BrE infml* to talk continuously about unimportant things; CHATTER: *They nattered (away) all afternoon.* —**natter** *n* [S]: *a long natter*

NBA /ˌen biː ˈeɪ/ National Basketball Association; the American organization which arranges professional BASKETBALL matches in the US —see also BASKETBALL

nat-ty /ˈnæti/ *adj* *old-fash infml* neat in appearance; SMART: *He's a very natty dresser.* (=He dresses neatly and fashionably.) —**tilly** *adv*

nat-u-ral /ˈnætʃərəl/ *adj* 1 of or being what exists or happens ordinarily in the world, esp. **a** not caused, made, or controlled by people: *The country's natural resources include forests, coal, and oil.* | *death from natural causes* | *The town has a fine natural harbour.* —compare ARTIFICIAL (1,3), MAN-MADE **b** not concerning gods, fairies, or spirits: *a natural explanation for the strange event* —opposite **supernatural** 2 **a** expected from experience; usual: *It's very natural to feel nervous when you go to a new school.* | *It's only natural that you should be nervous.* —opposite **unnatural**, **abnormal** **b** generally expected and accepted, in accordance with the facts of a situation: *Her marketing background made her a natural choice for the job.* 3 not looking or sounding different from usual; not AFFECTED: *Try to look natural for your photograph.*

4 **a** belonging to someone from birth; not learned; IN-NATE: *a natural talent for music* | *Cats have a natural aversion to water.* **b** [A] (of a person) having a skill or quality from birth; not needing to be taught: *a natural musician/story-teller* 5 [A *no comp.*] (of a family member) **a** actually having the stated relation even if not in law: *John was adopted as a baby: he never knew his natural parents.* **b** *euph.* now rare ILLEGITIMATE (1): *She claimed to be the natural child of the king.* 6 [after *n*] (of a note in music) not SHARP or FLAT: *Don't sing C sharp, sing C natural!* —see also NATURALLY —compare FLAT² (8) —**ness** *n* [U]

natural² *n* 1 [*usu. sing.*] *infml* someone or something well suited to a job, part in a play, etc., or certain to succeed: *As an actor, he's a natural.* 2 (in music) **a** a note which is not raised or lowered by a SHARP or FLAT **b** the sign (♭) for this —compare FLAT¹ (5)

natural child-birth /ˌnætʃərəlˈtʃɪldrɪθ/ *n* [U] a method of giving birth to a baby in which a woman chooses not to use drugs and uses breathing exercises to control pain

natural gas /ˌnætʃərəlˈɡæs/ *n* [U] gas used esp. for heating and lighting taken from under the earth or under the bottom of the sea —compare COAL GAS

natural his-to-ry /ˌnætʃərəlˈhɪstri/ *n* [U] the study of plants, animals, and minerals, esp. as a subject of general interest —compare NATURAL SCIENCE

Natural His-to-ry Mu-se-um /ˌnætʃərəlˈhɪstriˈmjuːzəm/ [*the*] a MUSEUM in London which is open to the public, contains articles related to the history of plants, animals, and minerals, and is famous for its collection of the bones of DINOSAURS

nat-u-ral-is-m /ˈnætʃərəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] 1 the showing, in art and literature, of the world and people exactly as they are 2 the system of thought which tries to explain everything by natural causes and laws —compare IDEALISM, REALISM

nat-u-ral-ist /ˈnætʃərəlɪst/ *n* 1 a person who studies plants or animals, esp. outdoors and not in a LABORATORY 2 a person who believes in naturalism in art or literature

nat-u-ral-is-tic /ˌnætʃərəlɪstɪk/ also **naturalist**—*adj* showing or practising naturalism: *a naturalistic writer/painting* —**ally** /kli/ *adv*

nat-u-ral-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈnætʃərəlaɪz/ *v* [T often *pass.*] 1 to make (a person born elsewhere) a citizen of a country: *She became naturalized after living in Britain for ten years.* 2 to bring (a plant or animal) into a new place to live 3 to accept (a foreign word or phrase) as part of a language: *“Apropos” is a French phrase now naturalized into/in English.* —**ization** /ˌnætʃərəlaɪˈzeɪʃən/—*n* [U]

nat-u-ral-ly /ˈnætʃərəli/—*adv* 1 by nature; as a natural quality: *Her cheeks are naturally red.* | *Swimming seems to come naturally to her.* (=she can easily learn to do it) 2 without trying to look or sound different from usual: *Try to speak naturally to the television camera.* 3 of course; as one could have expected: *“Did you win the game?” “Naturally.”* | *Naturally you will want to discuss it with your wife.*

natural phi-los-o-phy /ˌnætʃərəlɪˈzəfɪ/ *n* [U] old use science, esp. PHYSICS

natural re-sourc-es /ˌnætʃərəlˈresɪs/ *n* [P] materials, land, and natural forces which exist in a place and can be used by humans: *The country's natural resources include coal, iron, and copper.* | *We plan to use the natural resources of the site, esp. wind and water power, to the full.*

natural sci-ence /ˌnætʃərəlˈsaɪəns/ *n* 1 [U] BIOLOGY, chemistry, and PHYSICS considered together as subjects for study 2 [C *usu. pl.*] any of these: *Which of the natural sciences have you studied?* —compare NATURAL HISTORY, SOCIAL SCIENCE

natural se-lec-tion /ˌnætʃərəlˈselekʃən/ also **survival of the fittest**—*n* [U] *tech* the process by which plants and animals that are best suited to the conditions around them continue to live, while those less suited to these conditions die

natural wast-age /ˌnætʃərəlˈwæstɪdʒ/ *n* [U] a reduction in the number of people employed by a firm etc., which happens when people leave their jobs and are not replaced

na-ture /ˈneɪtʃər/ *n* 1 [U] (often *cap.*) everything that exists in the world independently of people, such as plants and animals, earth and rocks, and the weather: *They stopped to admire the beauties of nature.* (=scenery) | *Farming on such bad land is a struggle against nature.*

—see also MOTHER NATURE **2** [C;U] the qualities that make someone or something different from others; character: *What is the nature of the new chemical?* | *It's not in her nature to be rude; she's polite by nature.* (=she has a polite nature) | *It's his nature to be generous.* | *It's only human nature to like money.* (=everyone likes money) | *Owing to the sensitive nature of this case, the trial will be held in secret.* **3** [S] a type; sort: *ceremonies of a solemn nature* | *I think he's a physicist or something of that nature.* **4** in the 'nature of things as is natural; as may be expected: *In the nature of things, there is bound to be the occasional accident.* **5** in a state of nature: a in the supposed unspoiled condition of people before civilization **b** *euph* or *humor* wearing no clothes; **NAKED** **6** let nature take its course *infml* to allow events to happen without help from anyone **7** nature red in tooth and claw *quote* a phrase from a poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, used when saying how cruel the natural world is —see also CALL OF NATURE, SECOND NATURE, GOOD-NATURED

Nature the title of a British scientific magazine about NATURE (1) which appears weekly

nature con-ser-va-tion /'... .. / *n* [U] work done to control, prevent, or repair damage done to nature esp. by humans

nature-nur-ture con-tro-ver-sy /'... .. / [the] a difference of opinions about which has a greater influence on people and animals: their GENETIC (=natural) system, or their environment. This argument is usu. connected with political and social questions, often about race.

nature re-serve /'... .. / *n* an area in which usu. rare animals and plants are protected from being damaged by humans, e.g. by limiting the movement of people through the area

nature stud-y /'... .. / *n* [U] the study of plants, animals, etc., esp. purely for pleasure, or as a school subject: *a nature study class/lesson*

nature trail /'... .. / *n* a path in a country area where many plants, animals, etc. can be seen, esp. as laid out by a local group, farmer, etc. to keep visitors from walking everywhere and destroying wild life

na-tur-is-m /'neɪtʃəɪzəm/ *n* [U] NUDISM —ist *n*

na-tu-ro-path /'neɪtʃərəpəθ/ *n* a person who treats illness by trying to help the body to cure itself, using such means as changing the food that people eat, and not using dangerous drugs. This is regarded as a kind of ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE. —pathic /'neɪtʃərəpəθɪk/ *adj* —pathy /'neɪtʃərəpəθi/ *n* [U]

Nat West /'næt 'west/ [the] *BrE infml* National Westminster Bank

Nat-West Tro-phy /'... .. / [the] an English CRICKET competition in which one day matches are played and the losing team drops out of the competition

Nau-ga-hyde /'nɔ:gəhaɪd/ *n* [U] *AmE tdmk* a plastic-coated fabric made to look like leather and used to cover furniture. It is often associated with bad taste, or pretensions of wealth.

naught /nɔ:t||nɔ:t, nɔ:t/ *n* [U] **1** *old use or lit* nothing: *All his work came to naught when the storm destroyed his crops.* **2** *set at naught* *lit* not to care about or not fear

naugh-ty /'nɔ:ti||'nɔ:ti, 'nɔ:ti/ *adj* **1** (esp. of children or their behaviour) not obeying a parent, teacher, set of rules, etc.; *DISOBEDIENT: You naughty boy! I told you not to play in the road.* | *It's naughty to pull your sister's hair.* | (of adults) (*humor*) *It was rather naughty of you to deceive the tax inspector.* —see WICKED (USAGE) **2** *euph* morally, esp. sexually, improper, in a not very serious way: *naughty pictures* | *a naughty joke* **3** **naughty but nice** (a phrase which was used in an advertisement for cakes, but which is used in speaking of many things which are enjoyable but which might be harmful esp. to the health) **4** **naughty bits** *euph, humor* the (esp. male) sexual organs; the phrase was first used on the television programme *Monty Python's Flying Circus* —tily *adv* —tiness *n* [U]

Na-u-ru /nɑ:'u:ru:, nɑ:'u:ru/ an independent republic, one of the smallest nations in the world, on an island in the Pacific Ocean near the Equator — ~an *n, adj*

nau-se-a /'nɔ:ziə, -siə||-ziə, -ʃə/ *n* [U] *fml* a feeling of sickness and desire to VOMIT (=to throw up the contents of the stomach through the mouth): *Early pregnancy is often*

accompanied by nausea. | *Do you experience any nausea?*

nau-se-ate /'nɔ:ziət, -si-||-zi-, -ʃi-/ *v* [T] to cause to feel nausea; *SICKEN: a nauseating smell* | (fig.) *The way he shouts at his wife nauseates me.* —atingly *adv*

nau-se-ous /'nɔ:ziəs, -siəs||-ziəs, -ʃəs/ *adj* **1** *fml* causing nausea: *nauseous medicine* **2** *infml, esp. AmE* feeling great distaste; *nauseated: Violence in films makes me nauseous.* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

nau-ti-cal /'nɔ:tɪkəl/ *adj* of sailors, ships, or sailing — ~ly /kli/ *adv*

nautical mile /'... .. / also **sea mile**— *n* a measure of distance used at sea, a little more than a land mile, equal to 1853 metres (=6080 feet)

Nav-a-jo /'nævəhəʊ/ *n* [C; the+P] (a member of) a Native American people of the southwestern US. They are the largest TRIBE in the US. —see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

na-val /'neɪvəl/ *adj* of a navy or ships of war: *a naval officer* | *naval battles* | *a naval base* (=a place where ships of a navy are kept)

nave /neɪv/ *n* the long central part of a church, often between two AISLES —see picture at CHURCH

na-vel /'neɪvəl/ *n* the small sunken place in the middle of a person's stomach, left when the UMBILICAL CORD was cut at birth —see also **contemplate one's navel** (CONTEMPLATE (3))

nav-i-ga-ble /'nævɪgəbəl/ *adj* **1** (of a body of water) deep and wide enough to allow ships to travel: *The St Lawrence River is navigable from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.* **2** *fml* (of a ship, aircraft, etc.) able to be guided; steerable (STEER¹) —bility /'nævɪgə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

nav-i-gate /'nævɪgeɪt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to direct the course of (a ship, plane, etc.): *to navigate by the stars* (=using the positions of stars for a guide) | (fig.) *I'll drive if you'll hold the map and navigate.* **2** [T] to go by sea, air, etc. from one side or end to the other (of a place): *to navigate a river*

nav-i-ga-tion /'nævɪ'geɪʃən/ *n* [U] **1** the act or practice of sailing a ship or piloting an aircraft: *Navigation is difficult on this river because of the hidden rocks.* **2** the science of planning and keeping on a course on water or in the air from one place to another: *The compass is an instrument of navigation.* **3** movement of ships or aircraft: *a passage open to navigation*

nav-i-ga-tor /'nævɪgeɪtə/ *n* a person who is skilled in the art of navigation, esp. the officer on a ship or aircraft who plans and directs its course

Nav-rat-i-lo-va /'nævɪrætɪ'ləʊvə/, **Mar-ti-na** /mɑ:'tɪznə||mɑ:r-/ (1956–) an American tennis player, born in Czechoslovakia, who has won the ladies' SINGLES title at Wimbledon eight times, and many other important competitions. She was generally considered to be the best woman tennis player in the world for most of the 1980s.

nav-vy /'nævi/ *n* *BrE* a LABOURER doing a heavy unskilled job in digging or building

na-vy /'neɪvi/ *n* **1** [+sing./pl. v] the branch of a country's military forces that is concerned with attack and defence at sea: *to join the navy* | *The Navy wants/want more money for ships.* **2** the ships of war belonging to a country: *a small navy of ten ships* —see also MERCHANT NAVY

navy blue /'... .. / also **navy**— *adj* a very dark blue colour —navy blue *n* [U]

nay¹ /neɪ/ *adv* **1** *lit* not only this but also (something stronger than what has just been said): *a bright, nay (a) blinding light* (=not only bright but also blinding) **2** *old use* no —opposite *yea* or *aye*; see also **say someone nay** (SAY¹ (16))

nay² *n* a vote or voter against an idea, plan, law, etc. —opposite *aye* or *yea*

Naz-a-reth /'næzərəθ/ a town in Galilee, N Israel, known for its associations with Jesus Christ and therefore visited by many people

Na-zi /'nɑ:tsi/ *n* **Nazis** a person belonging to the political party of Adolf Hitler which controlled Germany from 1933 to 1945. The party's main ideas were the superiority (SUPERIOR) of the ARYAN master race, the establishment of a German THIRD REICH which would last a thousand years, and the removal of so-called enemies, mainly JEWS and COMMUNISTS. The policies (POLICY) were carried out by the GESTAPO (=secret police) and the SS, special

soldiers who protected Adolf Hitler and were in charge of the CONCENTRATION CAMPS where millions of people died. —see also CONCENTRATION CAMP, **Adolf** HITLER, SECOND WORLD WAR, SS — **Nazi** *adj*: a Nazi officer | the Nazi party | Nazi Germany (=Germany between 1933–45) — **Nazism** *n* [U]

NB, **nb** *Lat* (used esp. in writing to begin a note) *nota bene*; take notice; note well

NBA /,en bi: 'eɪ/ [*the*] National Basketball Association; (the organization that includes) the main professional BASKETBALL teams in the US, which play games against each other

NBC /,en bi: 'si:/ National Broadcasting Company; one of the four national American television networks supported by advertising: *NBC News*

NC *written abbrev. for*: NORTH CAROLINA

NCAA /,en si: dʌbəl 'eɪ/ National Collegiate Athletic Association; an organization which sets rules for sports competitions between American colleges and universities

NCO /,en si: 'əʊ/ *n* noncommissioned officer; a member of the army, navy, etc., such as a CORPORAL or SERGEANT, who is lower in rank than a COMMISSIONED OFFICER but has some responsibility to command others: *He became an NCO at 18.* —compare COMMISSIONED OFFICER

NCP /,en si: 'pi:/ National Car Parks; a company which owns many car parks in Britain, and charges money for the number of hours a car is parked: *There's an NCP car park a bit further down the road.*

NCT /,en si: 'ti:/ *abbrev. for*: NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

ND *written abbrev. for*: NORTH DAKOTA

NE *written abbrev. for*: 1 northeast(ern) 2 NEBRASKA

NEA /,en i: 'eɪ/ [*the*] the National Education Association; an American organization that represents the interests of teachers and schools

NEA² [*the*] NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS

Neagh see LOUGH NEAGH

Ne-an-der-thal /ni'ændətə:l||-dɔ:tə:l, -tə:l/ *n infml or humor* (often not cap.) 1 a heavy, hairy, stupid man (as Neanderthal man is regarded) 2 *esp. AmE* a person who unthinkingly opposes all change; REACTIONARY

Neanderthal man /- '... -/ *n* [U] an early type of human being who lived in Europe during the STONE AGE

ne-a-pol-i-tan /,ni:ə'pɒlɪtən- || -'pɑ:-/ *adj* (of ice cream) having bands of different colours and tastes

neap tide /,ni:p taɪd/ *n* a very small rise and fall of the sea at the times of the first and third quarters of the moon —compare SPRING TIDE

near¹ /niə/ *adj* 1 close; not at much distance away, in space, time, degree, or relationship: *the near future* | *Go and pick an apple from the nearest tree.* | *My office is quite near.* | *They live 20 miles from the nearest town.* | *He's one of my nearest relations.* (=is closely related to me) | *Tell me how much it will cost, to the nearest £10/\$10.* 2 [A no comp.] a the closer one of two things: *the near bank of the river* —opposite **far** b the one on the left of a pair; NEARSIDE: *the near wheel of a cart* —opposite **off** 3 [A] only just missed or avoided; almost (the stated thing): *a near disaster* | *The war led to a near doubling of oil prices.* (=prices were almost doubled) —see also NEAR² (2) 4 **one's nearest and dearest** *pomp or humor* one's family —see also NEARLY — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

▷ USAGE **Near** and **close** are almost the same in meaning, but there are certain phrases in which one must be used and not the other. Notice *the near future* | *the near distance* || *a near miss/disaster* (not **close**); *a close friend* | *close behind* || *a close call/shave* (not **near**). **Close** cannot be used alone as a preposition. ◁

near² *adv, prep* 1 [(to)] not far (from); close (to): *the tree nearest (to) the house* | *a house near the station* | *We want to find a house nearer (to) the station.* | *Move your chair a bit nearer (mine).* | *They live quite near (here).* | *Don't go too near the edge of the cliff; just near enough to see over it.* | *I came near to tears.* (=almost cried) | *Remind me again nearer (to) the time of the meeting.* | *The bus is nowhere near as fast as* (=much slower than) *the train.* 2 almost: *a near-perfect performance* | *The job is near impossible.* —see also NEAR¹ (3)

near³ *v* [I;T] to come closer in space or time (to); APPROACH:

The work is nearing completion. | *He got more and more nervous as the day neared.*

near-by /,niə'baɪ- ||,niər-/ *adj, adv* near; close by: *a nearby town* | *A football match was being played nearby.*

Near East /, '... -/ [*the*] the Middle East —compare FAR EAST — ~ **ern** *adj*

near let-ter qual-i-ty /, '... ,.../ *adj* [A] (of computer printers or PRINTOUT) producing or being nearly as good a quality of print as is produced by a good TYPEWRITER: *an inexpensive dot-matrix printer producing near letter quality results*

near-ly /'niəli||'niərli/ *adv* 1 almost; not quite or not yet completely: *He very nearly died.* | *It took nearly two weeks to get there.* | *The train was nearly full.* | *not nearly enough money* (=far too little) | *two nearly equal amounts* | *Is the job nearly finished?* | *The train was nearly full.* —see ALMOST (USAGE) 2 *fml rare* closely: *a question which concerns me nearly*

near miss /, '... -/ *n* 1 a bomb, shot, etc., which does not hit exactly the right spot but comes close to it 2 an intention which fails but almost succeeds: *I got there just after you'd left — such a near miss!* —compare NEAR THING

near-side /'niəsaid||'niər-/ *adj* [A no comp.] *esp. BrE* on the left-hand side, esp. of an animal or of a car or road: *the nearside back light of a car* —opposite **offside**

near-sight-ed /,niə'saɪtɪd- ||'niərsaɪtɪd/ *adj esp. AmE for* SHORTSIGHTED — ~ **ly** *adv* — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

near thing /, '... -/ also **close thing**— *n* [*usu. sing.*] *BrE infml* 1 a situation in which something dangerous or very unpleasant is only just avoided: *That was a near thing — we almost hit that car!* —see also CLOSE CALL, CLOSE SHAVE, NARROW SQUEAK 2 a game, election, risk taken, etc., which comes close to failing before it succeeds: *We won, but it was a near thing.* —compare NEAR MISS

neat /ni:t/ *adj* 1 in good order; showing care in appearance; tidy: *neat handwriting* | *He keeps his office neat and tidy.* 2 liking order and good arrangement: *Cats are neat animals.* 3 simple and effective: *a neat trick/description* | *There are no neat solutions to this problem.* 4 also **straight**— (of alcoholic drinks) without ice or water or other liquid: *I like my whisky neat.* 5 *AmE infml* very good; very pleasant; fine: *The party was really neat — we had good fun.* — ~ **ly** *adv* — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

'neath /ni:θ/ *prep poet* beneath

Ne-bras-ka /nɪ'bræskə/ *written abbrev. NE—* a state in the central US which is mainly farmland, producing corn, wheat, cattle, and pigs —see colour map on pages 1374–5 — **-kan** *n,adj*

Neb-u-chad-nez-zar /,nebjukəd'nezə||,nebəkəd-/ **King** (died 562 BC) a king of Babylonia who destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC, as described in the Bible

neb-u-la /'nebjʊlə/ *n -lae* /li:/ or **-las** 1 a mass of gas and dust among the stars, appearing often as a bright cloud at night 2 a GALAXY (=mass of stars) which has this appearance — **-lar** *adj*

neb-u-lous /'nebjʊləs/ *adj* lacking clear form or expression; VAGUE: *his nebulous political ideas* — ~ **ly** *adv* — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

NEC¹ /,en i: 'si:/ *abbrev. for*: 1 NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE 2 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NEC² a large Japanese company that makes FAX machines, computers etc.

ne-ces-sa-ries /'nesɪsəriz||-seriz/ *n* [P] *esp. BrE* things which are needed for a purpose, e.g. food and money for a journey

▷ USAGE **Necessaries** are things which you need; **necessities** is a stronger word that can mean “things which are needed in order to stay alive”. Compare *a few necessities for the journey, like socks and a toothbrush* | *Water is a necessity of life.* ◁

ne-ces-sa-ri-ly /'nesɪsəri||,nesɪ'serɪli||,nesɪ'serɪli/ *adv* in a way that must be so; unavoidably: *Food that looks good doesn't necessarily taste good.* (=it might taste bad)

ne-ces-sa-ry¹ /'nesɪsəri||-seri/ *adj* [(for)] that must be had, obtained, or done; needed; ESSENTIAL: *Food is necessary for life.* | *Is it really necessary for me to attend the meeting?* (=must I attend?) | *It's not necessary to wear a tie.* | *This discussion can, if necessary, be continued tomorrow.* | *If we're agreed that the meeting should be next Friday, I'll*

used in sewing: *to thread a needle* | *a darning needle* **2** [C] a thin pointed object that looks like this: *a pine needle* (=a thin leaf of this tree) **3** [C] a thin pointed rod used in knitting (KNIT): *a knitting needle* | *a pair of size eight needles* **4** [C] a very small pointed jewel or piece of metal used in a RECORD PLAYER to pick up sound from records; *STYLUS* **5** [C] a very thin hollow pointed tube, at the end of a HYPODERMIC, which is pushed into someone's skin to put a liquid (esp. medicine) into the body or take out blood: (fig.) *He's back on the needle.* (=he is taking ADDICTIVE drugs again) **6** [C] a long thin moving pointer in a scientific instrument: *the needle of a compass* **7** [U] *BrE* strong dislike or bad feeling between people, teams, etc., esp. as a result of competition: *the game between the two old rivals is always a real needle match* (=which each wants to win very much because of bad feeling between them) **8** *needle in a haystack* *infml* something very small which is hard to find in a big place — see also CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE, PINS AND NEEDLES

needle² *v infml* [T (into)] to annoy (someone) by repeated unkind remarks, stupid jokes, etc.; *PROVOKE*: *The boys always needled Jim about being fat.* | *She tried to needle me into losing my temper.*

nee-dle-point /'ni:dlpɔɪnt/ *n* [U] pictures made by sewing different coloured threads onto or into a material: *His mother does needlepoint.*

need-less /'ni:dləs/ *adj* **1** not needed; unnecessary: *What a lot of needless trouble, preparing for guests who don't turn up!* **2** *needless to say* of course; as was to be expected: *Needless to say, it rained when I left my window open.* — *~ly adv*: *She was needlessly worried.*

nee-dle-wom-an /'ni:dl,wʊmən/ *BrE* || **seamstress** *AmE* — *n-women* /,wɪmɪn/ a woman who can sew: *a good needlewoman* | *I'm no needlewoman.*

nee-dle-work /'ni:dlwɜ:k/ || -wɜ:rk/ *n* [U] sewing, esp. fancy sewing, done with needle and thread: *tired eyes from doing fine needlework* | *chairs with needlework cushions*

need-n't /'ni:dnt/ *short for*: *NEED³ not*: *You needn't go if you don't want to.* | *I needn't have put on this thick coat.* (=but I did) — see *MUST (USAGE)*, *OUGHT (USAGE)*

needs /ni:dz/ *adv* *old use or humor* necessarily (in the phrases *must needs* or *needs must*): *If those are his commands we must needs obey.* | *I can't really afford to take a taxi, but needs must.*

need-y /'ni:di/ *adj* [also *n*, *the+P*] poor; without food, clothing, etc.: *a needy family* | *money to help the needy* — *-iness n* [U]

ne'er /neə/ *adv* *poet* never: *Will he ne'er come home again?*

ne'er-do-well /'neə dʊː ,wel/ || 'neər-/ *n* *derog* a useless lazy person

ne-far-i-ous /ni'feəriəs/ *adj fml* very wicked; evil: *a nefarious crime/criminal* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

neg. *written abbrev. for*: *NEGATIVE*

ne-gate /ni'geɪt/ *v* [T] *rather fml* **1** to cause to have no effect: *This burst of terrorist activity could completely negate our efforts to expand tourism here.* **2** to declare untrue; *DENY* — **-gation** /ni'geɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

neg-a-tive¹ /'negətɪv/ *adj* **1** a refusing, doubting, or disapproving; saying or meaning "no": *He gave a negative answer to my request.* **b** containing one of the words "no", "not", "nothing", "never", etc.: *"Not at all" is a negative expression.* | *"Can't" and "cannot" are negative forms of "can".* — *opposite affirmative* **2** without any active, useful, or helpful qualities; not *CONSTRUCTIVE*: *I've had enough negative advice — it only tells me what not to do!* | *a negative attitude* **3** showing the lack of what was hoped for or expected: *I'm looking for a house, but with negative results so far.* (=I haven't found one) | *a negative return on our investment* | (*med*) *The test for bacteria was negative.* (=none were found) **4** [*no comp.*] (of electricity) of the type that is carried by *ELECTRONS* **5** [*no comp.*] (of a number) less than zero: *a negative profit* (=a loss) | *If x is positive then minus x (-x) is negative.* **6** [*no comp.*] *med* having no *RHESUS FACTOR* in the blood; *RH-negative blood* — *opposite positive* (for 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) — *~ly adv*

negative² *n* **1** a statement saying or meaning "no"; a refusal or *DENIAL*: *The answer to my request was a strong negative.* | *The answer was in the negative.* — *opposite affirmative* **2** a photograph or film showing dark areas

in nature as light and light areas as dark — *opposite positive*

negative³ *v* [T] *infml* **1** [*often pass.*] to decide against; refuse to accept: *The plan was negated by the committee.* **2** to disprove

negative pole /,... 'l-/ *n* **1** the end of a *MAGNET* which turns naturally away from the Earth **2** a *CATHODE*

ne-glect¹ /ni'glekt/ *v* [T] **1** to give too little attention or care to: *a neglected garden* | *You've been neglecting your work.* **2** [*+to-v/v-ing*; *obj*] to fail (to do something), esp. because of carelessness or forgetfulness: *Don't neglect to lock the door/locking the door when you leave.*

neglect² *n* [U] **1** the action of neglecting: *The tenants are complaining about the council's neglect of their property.* **2** the condition of being neglected: *The garden has fallen into a state of neglect.*

ne-glect-ful /ni'glektfəl/ *adj* [(of)] in the habit of neglecting things; forgetful or careless: *a father who is neglectful of his children* (=doesn't give them enough attention and care) — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

neg-li-gee /'neglɪʒeɪ/ || ,neglɪ'ʒeɪ/ *n* a woman's light and usually fancy garment, worn over or in place of a *NIGHTDRESS*

neg-li-gent /'neglɪdʒənt/ *adj* **1** not taking enough care; neglectful: *The report said the doctor had been negligent in not giving the woman a full examination.* **2** *apprec* careless in a pleasant way; *NONCHALANT*: *to dress with negligent grace* — *~ly adv* — **-gence** *n* [U]: *The accident was caused by the gross negligence of the driver.*

neg-li-gi-ble /'neglɪdʒɪbəl/ *adj* too slight or unimportant to be worth any attention: *The damage to my car is negligible.* — *-bly adv*

ne-go-ti-a-ble /ni'gəʊʃiəbəl, -ʃə-/ *adj* **1** able to be settled or changed by being negotiated: *a negotiable contract* | *He says the price is not negotiable.* **2** *tech* (of a cheque or order to pay money) that can be exchanged for money **3** *infml* that can be travelled through, along, etc.: *The road is only negotiable in dry weather.*

ne-go-ti-ate /ni'gəʊʃiət/ *v* **1** [I (with, for)] to talk with another person or group in order to try to come to an agreement or settle an argument: *The government says it will not negotiate with the terrorists.* | *negotiating for an improvement in the rate of pay* | *We are negotiating (with the council) to have this road closed to traffic.* **2** [T (with)] to produce (an agreement) or settle (a piece of business) in this way: *The trade union negotiated a new contract with the management.* **3** [T] *infml* to succeed in dealing with or getting past (something difficult): *to negotiate a steep hill/sharp bend in one's car* **4** [T] *tech* to get or give money for (a cheque, etc.) — **-ator** *n*: *a skilful negotiator*

negotiating table /'... ,.../ [the] a table (sometimes imaginary, but often real) where people meet to discuss their differences and agree what should be done: *No decisions have yet been taken on nurses' pay, as the parties have only just reached the negotiating table.*

ne-go-ti-a-tion /ni'gəʊʃi'eɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] also **negotiations** *pl.* — an act of negotiating: *The treaty was the result of long negotiations.* | *the negotiation of a new contract* | *The contract is still under negotiation.* (=in the process of being settled) **2** [U] the successful completion of a difficult trip or other activity: *Negotiation of the slippery road was not easy.*

Ne-gro /'ni:grəʊ/ **Ne-gress** /'ni:grɪs/ *fem.* — *n-groes* *tech* or *not polite* a person belonging to a dark-skinned esp. African race; black person — see also *BLACK (USAGE)*

▷ *USAGE* Black people now would rather be called **black** than **Negro**.◁

ne-groid /'ni:grɔɪd/ *adj* *tech* or *fml* like a Negro in appearance

Negro spir-i-tu-al /,... '..../ *n* a *SPIRITUAL²*

Ne-gus /'ni:ɡəs/, **Arthur** (1903–85) a British presenter of two television programmes about *ANTIQUES* (=very old, valuable objects)

Neh-ru /'neəru:/, **Ja-wa-har-lal** /dʒə'wɑ:hə,lɑ:l/ || -hər-/ (1889–1964) an Indian politician and Prime Minister from 1947 who had the idea of *NEUTRALITY* towards the larger, more powerful countries. He was the father of *Indira Gandhi*.

neigh /neɪ/ *v* [I] to make the loud long cry that a horse or *PONY* makes — **-neigh** *n*

neigh·bour *BrE* || **-bor** *AmE* /'neɪbəʊ/ *n* 1 someone who lives near another: *my next-door neighbour* (=the person living in the next house) | *We're neighbours now.* | (fig.) *The country has always had good relations with its neighbours in the region.* 2 **love thy neighbour** a phrase from the Bible, often used humorously or with IRONY

neigh·bour·hood *BrE* || **-borhood** *AmE* /'neɪbəʊhʊd/ *n* 1 [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group of people and their homes forming a small area within a larger place such as a town: *a quiet neighbourhood with good shops* | *a neighbourhood school* 2 [S] the area around a point or place: *somewhere in the neighbourhood (of the station)* | (fig.) *a price in the neighbourhood of £500*

neighbourhood watch /... '·/ *n* [U] a system by which people in an area keep watch on each other's houses in order to keep away thieves. The people involved are usually honest, respectable people with nice houses, living in good neighbourhoods. They report anything strange or anyone behaving badly to the police, who deal with it.

neigh·bour·ing *BrE* || **-boring** *AmE* /'neɪbəʊrɪŋ/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] (of places) near or close by: *a bus service between the town and the neighbouring villages*

neigh·bour·ly *BrE* || **-borly** *AmE* /'neɪbəʊli/ *adj* friendly; like or typical of a good neighbour: *neighbourly help* —**liness** *n* [U]

Neigh·bours /'neɪbəʊz/ *n* an Australian television SOAP OPERA shown in many countries around the world. It is very popular with people of all ages, partly because of its setting, and also because the characters are ordinary families living ordinary lives; some of the actors from the programme, such as Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan, are now famous as singers and film stars.

Nei·man·Mar·cus /'ni:mən 'mɑ:kəs/ *n* a very expensive US chain department store with branches in many large cities. People associate Neiman-Marcus with rich people. Sometimes it is called "Needless Markup" because it is so expensive.

nei·ther¹ /'naɪðə/ *conj* 1 *neither...nor* not one and not the other of two: *Neither road/Neither of the roads is very good.* (=they are both bad) | *"Will you have tea or coffee?" "Neither thanks."* —compare NONE¹ (2)

neither² *conj* (used before the first of two or more choices separated by **nor**) not either: *He neither drinks, smokes, nor eats meat.* | *Neither my father nor I were there.*

neither³ *adv* (used with **no**, **not**, **never**, etc.) also not: *"I can't swim." "Neither can I." "Me neither."* (=I can't, either.) | *I wasn't there, and neither was Mary/neither were the children.* —compare EITHER⁴; see ALSO (USAGE)

▷ **USAGE** Notice the word order after **neither/nor**, which is the same as that of a question: *Neither/Nor can I* | *Neither/Nor does she.* ◁

nel·ly¹ /'neli/ *n* *BrE sl* not on your nelly certainly not

nelly² *adj* *AmE infml* (of a man) EFFEMINATE; HOMOSEXUAL



Nelson

Nel·son¹ /'nelsən/, **Ho·ra·ti·o** /hə'reɪʃiəʊ/ (1758–1805) an English ADMIRAL who lost his right arm, and the sight in his right eye, during the wars against France in the 1790s, and he became a national HERO after winning several victories at sea, the most famous being the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. As he was dying after the battle of Trafalgar he is believed to have said "Kiss me, Hardy" to his friend, Sir Thomas Hardy.

Nelson², **Ozzie** see OZZIE AND HARRIET

Nelson³, **Willie** (1933–) an American singer and writer of COUNTRY MUSIC

Nelson's col·umn /... '·/ a very tall stone tower in Trafalgar Square, London, built in honour of Admiral Nelson, with a STATUE of him on the top —see colour map on page 817

nem con /,nem 'kɒn/ *adv* *Lat law* without any opposition: *The suggestion was accepted nem con by the committee.*

nem·e·sis /'nemɪsɪs/ *n* **-ses** /sɪz/ [C;U] *lit* (sometimes *cap.*) just and esp. unavoidable punishment, often considered as a goddess or an active force

neo- see WORD FORMATION

ne·o·clas·sic·al /,ni:əʊ'klæsɪkəl/ *adj* *tech* done or made recently, but in the CLASSICAL style of a former time, esp. in the style of ancient Greece and Rome

ne·o·co·lo·ni·al·is·m /,ni:əʊkə'ləʊniəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] *derog* the trading and political practices by which a powerful country indirectly keeps or enlarges its control over esp. recently independent countries, without the need of military force —compare COLONIALISM

ne·o·lith·ic /,ni:əʊ'lɪθɪk/ *adj* (often *cap.*) of the latest period of the STONE AGE, about 10,000 years ago, when people began to settle in villages, grow crops, keep animals, polish stone for tools, and use the wheel: *neolithic villages* —compare PALEOLITHIC

ne·ol·o·gis·m /ni:'lədʒɪzəm/ *n* 1 [C] a new word or expression, or a new meaning for an older word: *The term "user-friendly" is a neologism that has come into everyday speech from the computer industry.* 2 [U] the use of such new words or meanings

ne·on /'ni:ɒn/ *n* [U] a chemically inactive gas that is a simple substance (ELEMENT)

Ne·o·Na·zi /,ni:əʊ 'nɑ:tsi/ *adj* [A] (of modern politicians or political parties) having ideas similar to those of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party —**Neo-Nazi** *n*

neon light /... '·/ *n* a glass tube filled with neon which lights when an electric current goes through it, often shaped to form a **neon sign** advertising something

ne·o·phyte /'ni:əfaɪt/ *n* 1 *fml* a new student of an art, skill, trade, etc.; BEGINNER 2 a new member of a religious group

Ne·pal /nə'pɔ:l/ a country in S central Asia, in the Himalayan mountains, capital Katmandu; population 18,442,000 (1989). It is famous in Britain as the homeland of the Gurkha soldiers who serve in the British army, and now attracts many tourists who go there to walk and climb in the Himalayas.

Nep·al·ese /,nepə'lɪz/ *n* 1 [the+P] people of or from Nepal: *The Nepalese are very friendly people.* 2 [U] the language of Nepal; Nepali —**Nepalese** *adj*: *Nepalese baskets* | *He's Nepalese.*

Ne·pa·li /nə'pɔ:li/ *n* **-lis** or **Nepali** 1 [C] a person who lives in or comes from Nepal 2 [U] the language of Nepal —**Nepali** *adj*

neph·ew /'nefjʊz, 'nev-/ *n* 1 the son of one's brother or sister 2 the son of one's wife's or husband's brother or sister —compare NIECE

ne·phri·tis /nɪ'fraɪtɪs/ *n* [U] *med* a disease of the KIDNEY

nep·o·tis·m /'nepətɪzəm/ *n* [U] the practice of giving one's relatives unfair advantages when one has power, esp. by giving them good jobs. Most disapprove of nepotism, although it is quite often done. —**tistic** /,nepə'tɪstɪk/ *adj*

Nep·tune /'neptjʊ:n/ *n* 1 the PLANET eighth in order from the sun —see picture at SOLAR SYSTEM 2 in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the Roman god of the sea, similar to the Greek god Poseidon. He is usu. pictured with a beard, a fish's tail, and a TRIDENT (=a type of large fork with three points). —see colour picture on page 423

nerd /nɜ:d/ *n* *derog sl* an unattractive or unpleasant person, esp. one who is thought to lack ordinary social skills

ner·e·id /'nɪəri-id/ *n* a female spirit in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY who lived in the sea; sea NYMPH

Ne·ro /'nɪərəʊ/ (AD 37–68) a Roman EMPEROR, said to have killed his mother, wives, and many others. He blamed the Christians for causing the great fire of Rome in AD 64 and many were killed. He is also known for his

performances as an actor and musician, and is usu. shown in pictures fiddling (=playing the VIOLIN) while Rome is on fire behind him. —see also **fiddle while Rome burns** (FIDDLE²)

nerve¹ /nɜːv||nɜːrv/ *n* **1** [C] any of the threadlike parts of the body which form a system to carry feelings and messages to and from the brain —see picture at **TEETH** **2** [U] courage, determination, and self-control: *I wanted to tell her exactly what I thought, but I lost my nerve.* | *It must have taken a lot of nerve to risk so much money on one product.* **3** [S;U] derog disrespectful rudeness; CHEEK; EFFRONTERY: *He's the dirtiest man I know, and he has the nerve to tell me my shoes need cleaning!* | *What (a) nerve!* —see also **NERVES**, **strain every nerve** (STRAIN)

nerve² *v* [T (UP)] *fml* to give courage to (someone, esp. oneself) before doing something difficult or dangerous: [+obj+to-v/for] *The parachutist nerved himself to jump for the jump.*

nerve cen-tre /'nɜː. tɜː/ *n* the place from which a system, organization, etc., is controlled

nerve gas /'nɜː. ɡɜː/ *n* [C;U] a gas, used as a weapon but forbidden by many countries, which attacks the central nervous system of anyone who breathes it in

nerve-less /'nɜːvləs||'nɜːr-/ *adj* **1** weak or without courage **2** not nervous; COOL¹ (2) —~*ly adv* —~*ness n* [U]

nerve-rack-ing /'nɜː. ræk-/ *adj infml* difficult to do or bear calmly because frightening and dangerous: *a nerve-racking journey on a narrow mountain road*

nerves /nɜːvz||nɜːrvz/ *n* [P] *infml* **1** a condition of great nervousness; ANXIETY: *She gets nerves before every exam.* | *His nerves are very bad.* (=he is habitually nervous) | *I'm just a bundle of nerves today.* | *Before making the speech I had a drink to steady my nerves.* **2** *get on someone's nerves* to make someone annoyed or bad-tempered: *That man/music gets on my nerves.* —see also **WAR OF NERVES**

ner-vous /'nɜːvəs||'nɜːr-/ *adj* **1** [(of)] rather frightened; worried about what might happen: *Don't be nervous — the doctor won't hurt you.* | *I've got to give a speech and I'm a bit nervous about it.* | *a nervous smile* | *He's nervous of strangers.* **2** of the nervous system of the body, or the feelings: *a nervous disorder* **3** *not suitable for people of a nervous disposition* a phrase used as a warning before a violent or frightening television or radio programme —~*ly adv* —~*ness n* [U]

▷ **USAGE** Compare **nervous**, **concerned**, and **anxious**. You can be **nervous** (=rather afraid) before or during an event: *I'm always nervous when I have to speak in public.* You can be **concerned** (=worried) about something that is happening now, and often about another person: *We're rather concerned about your father's health.* **Anxious** usually means “worried about something which might happen”: *Your father will be anxious until he knows that you're safe.* ◁

nervous break-down /'nɜː. brɛk-/ *n* a serious medical condition of deep anxiety, tiredness, and uncontrollable crying, which makes the sufferer unable to do his/her usual work or activities

nervous sys-tem /'nɜː. sɪs-/ *n* the system (=the brain, nerves, etc.) in people and animals which receives and passes on feelings, messages, and other such information from inside and outside the body —see also **CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM**

ner-v-y /'nɜːvi||'nɜːr-/ *adj sl* **1** BrE nervous and anxious **2** AmE disrespectfully rude; having NERVE¹ (3)

Nes-café /'neskæfeɪ||'neskæ'feɪ/ *n* [C;U] *tdmk* (a cup of) a make of INSTANT coffee, which is used as a word meaning instant coffee: *a cup of Nescafé* | *Do you want real coffee or Nescafé?*

Nes-quick /'neskwɪk/ *n* [C;U] *tdmk* a type of powder made by Nestlé and mixed with milk to make MILK SHAKE; there are different FLAVOURS of Nesquik, which is esp. popular with children

Nes-sie /'nesi/ a familiar name for the Loch Ness Monster —see **LOCH NESS MONSTER**

nest¹ /nest/ *n* **1** a hollow place built or found by a bird for use as a home and a place to keep its eggs **2** the settled and protected home of certain other animals or insects: *an ants' nest* | (fig.) *The husband and wife built themselves a comfortable nest.* **3** [+of] a place that provides favourable conditions for a particular usu. bad activity:

The palace was a nest of intrigue. **4** (of) a group of similar objects which fit closely inside one another: *a nest of tables/boxes* **5** a protected position for one or more weapons (esp. in the phrase **machinegun nest**)

nest² *v* **1** [I] to build or use a nest: *Most birds nest in trees.* **2** [I;T] to (cause to) fit closely inside another thing or each other: *nested cooking pots*

nest egg /'nɛs. ɛɡ/ *n* an amount of money saved for special future use

nes-tle /'nesəl/ *v* [I+adv/prep;T+obj+adv/prep] to (cause to) settle or lie in a close comfortable position: *She nestled her head on/against his shoulder.* | *villages nestling among the mountains* | *to nestle down in a big chair with a book*

Nest-lé /'nesəl, 'nesleɪ/ *tdmk* a large company which makes milk-based products such as baby milk, chocolate, and other foods; it is the maker of Nescafé. It has been the object of many **BOYCOTTS** (=people refusing to buy its products) because of the way it sells baby milk in poor countries.

nest-ling /'nestlɪŋ, 'neslɪŋ/ *n* a young bird who has not left the nest

net¹ /net/ *n* **1** [C;U] a material of strings, wires, threads, etc., twisted, tied, or woven together with regular equal spaces between them —compare **MESH** **2** [C] any of various objects made from this, such as **a** a large piece of net spread out under water to catch fish **b** a bag of net on a frame with a handle, for catching things: *a butterfly net* **c** a length of net dividing the two sides of the court in tennis, BADMINTON, etc. —



see picture at **TENNIS** **d** an enclosure at the back of the goal in football, HOCKEY, etc. **e** the bag-like net on the GOAL in NETBALL and BASKETBALL —see also **HAIRNET** **3** [C] a network (esp. in the phrases **radio net**, **communication(s) net**) **4** [C] a piece of material in a frame, in which firemen catch someone falling or jumping —see also **NETS**, **cast one's net wide** (CAST¹)

net² *v* -tt- [T] **1** to catch (as if) in a net: *We netted three fish.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *She's netted herself a rich husband.* **2** to cover with a net: *Net the fruit trees to protect them from birds.* **3** *infml* to hit or kick (the ball) into the net in a game

net³ also **nett** BrE— *adj* [A;after *n*] (of an amount) when nothing further is to be subtracted: *net profit* (=after tax, rent, etc. are paid) | *net weight* (=of an object without its packet) | *This jar of coffee weighs 250 grams net.* | (fig.) *The net result* (=the result when everything has been considered) *of our efforts was one small basket of strawberries.* —compare **GROSS**¹

net⁴ *v* -tt- [T (for)] to gain as a profit: *The sale netted a fat profit (for the company).* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *It netted us a large profit.*

net-ball /'netbɔːl/ *n* [U] a game that is related to BASKETBALL but usu. played by women, in which teams make points by making a ball fall through one of the two high rings at the opposite ends of a court. It is one of the sports played by girls of school age in Britain, but not usu. by boys.

Net Book A-gree-ment /'nɛt. bʊk. ə. griː. mənt/ [the] an agreement between booksellers in Britain to sell books at the prices decided by the PUBLISHERS. There has been much discussion of whether this agreement is good for the public and the book industry. Some booksellers would like to stop it, but others believe that small bookshops would be forced out of business by the competition.

net cord /'nɛt. kɔːd/ *n* a shot in tennis that hits the top edge of the net but lands correctly on the opponent's side of the court

neth-er /'neðə/ *adj* [A] *lit or humor* in a lower place or position: *his nether garments* (=trousers) | *nether regions*

Neth-er-lands /'neðələndz||-ðər-/ [the] a country in NW Europe. The capital is Amsterdam but the government is at The Hague; population 14,835,000 (1989). Most of the country is flat and much of it is below the level of the sea.

Its people (the **Dutch**) have enclosed and drained (**DRAIN**) parts of the sea to get more land. Although Holland is only one part of the Netherlands, most people say Holland when they mean the whole country. People connect the Netherlands with **WINDMILLS**, **TULIPS**, and wooden shoes (**CLOGS**).

Netherlands An-till-les /ˌneðələndz ænˈtɪlɪz/ || -ðər-/ a group of islands in the West Indies, esp. Bonaire and Curacao; capital Willemstad; population 193,000 (1989)

neth-er-most /ˌneðəməʊst/ || -ðər-/ *adj* [A] *lit* lowest: *the nethermost point on the map*

nets /nets/ *n* [(the) P] (in cricket) one or more **WICKETS** surrounded by a net, in which players can practise

nett /net/ *adj* *BrE* for **NET**³

net-ting /ˈnetɪŋ/ *n* [U] string, wire, etc., made into a net: *a fence of wire netting*

net-tle¹ /ˈnetl/ *n* a wild plant with hairy leaves which may sting and make red marks on the skin —see also **grasp the nettle** (**GRASP**¹)

nettle² *v* [T] to make (someone) angry or impatient, esp. for only a short time; **IRRITATE**: *I was rather nettled by his rude questions.*

nettle rash /ˈ.. -/ *n* [C;U] an area of stinging red spots on one's skin: *I sometimes get (a) nettle rash from eating fish.*

net-work¹ /ˈnetwɜ:k/ || -wɜ:rk/ *n* **1** a large system of lines, tubes, wires, etc., that cross one another or are connected with one another: *Britain's railway network* | *the network of blood vessels in the body* | (fig.) *a network of friends in different cities* **2** a group of radio or television stations in different places using many of the same broadcasts **3** a set of computers that are connected to each other and can be used as a means of sending and sharing information or messages —see also **LAN**, **OLD-BOY NETWORK**

network² *v* [I;T] to connect (computers) to form a **NETWORK**¹ (3)

net-work-ing /ˈnetwɜ:kɪŋ/ || -ɜ:r-/ *n* [U] the establishing of professional connections with the aim of sharing information, advice, or support. In Britain the word is used esp. by women working at home, or in areas which do not give them the advantages enjoyed by people in other businesses or professions. In the US the word is used generally about anyone improving their professional connections. —compare **OLD-BOY**, **NETWORK**

Network South-East /ˌ.. -/ an area within the British railway system, including London and SE England but also stretching as far N as Oxford, Northampton, and Cambridge, and as far W as Exeter.

neu-ral-gia /njuˈrældʒə/ || nu-/ *n* [U] *med* sharp pain along the length of one or more nerves —**gic** *adj*: *neuralgic pain*

neuro- see **WORD FORMATION**

neu-rol-o-gy /njuˈrɒlədʒi/ || nuˈræz-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of the **NERVOUS SYSTEM** and its diseases —**gist** *n*

neu-ro-sis /njuˈrɒsɪs/ || nu-/ *n* -ses /sɪz/ [C;U] *med* a disorder of the mind in which a person suffers from strong unreasonable fears and ideas about the outside world, troubled relations with other people, and often physical illness

neu-rot-ic /njuˈrɒtɪk/ || nuˈræz-/ *adj* **1** of or suffering from neurosis: *neurotic fears* **2** *not tech* unreasonably anxious or sensitive: *She's neurotic about getting fat!* —**neurotic** *n*

neu-ter¹ /ˈnju:trə/ || ˈnu:z-/ *adj* *tech* **1** (in grammar) for or belonging to the class of words that usu. includes most of the words for things rather than males or females: *a neuter noun/ending* **2** (of plants or animals) with no or undeveloped sexual organs: *Worker bees are neuter.* —compare **FEMININE**, **MASCULINE**

neuter² *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *euph* to remove part of the sex organs of (an animal) by an operation, to prevent (the animal) producing young —compare **CASTRATE**, **SPAY**, **ALTER** (2)

neu-tral¹ /ˈnju:trəl/ || ˈnu:z-/ *adj* **1** without strong feelings or opinions on either side of a question or argument: *neutral reporting of a political issue* **2** being or belonging to a country which is not fighting or helping either side in a war: *a neutral country* | *neutral waters* **3** without strong or noticeable qualities, esp. of the stated kind, such as a very weak or colourless: *a neutral colour* **b** (in chemistry) neither acid nor **BASE**¹ (5) **c** with no electrical charge —**ly** *adv*

neutral² *n* **1** [U] (in a car or other machine) the position of the **GEARS** in which no power is carried from the engine to the wheels: *When you start the engine, be sure the car is in neutral.* **2** [C] a **NEUTRAL**¹ (2) person or country

neu-tral-i-ty /nju:ˈtræljəti/ || nu:z-/ *n* [U] the condition or quality of being neutral, esp. in a war

neu-tral-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈnju:trəlaɪz/ || ˈnu:z-/ *v* [T] **1** to cause to have no effect; destroy the value, force, or activity of: *to neutralize an acid with a base* | *Rising prices tend to neutralize increased wages.* —compare **COUNTER-ACT** **2** to make (a country) neutral by international agreement —**-ization** /ˌnju:trəlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ || nu:trəleɪ-/ *n* [U]

neu-tron /ˈnju:trɒn/ || ˈnu:trɒn/ *n* a very small piece of matter that carries no electricity and that together with the **PROTON** forms the **NUCLEUS** (=central part) of an atom —see also **ELECTRON**

neutron bomb /ˈ.. -/ *n* a kind of **NUCLEAR** bomb that destroys life but which causes little damage to property

Ne-va-da /nəˈvɑ:də/ || -ˈvæ-/ *written abbrev. NV*—a state in the western US, between California and Utah. Much of it is desert, but it is also known for legalized gambling (**GAMBLE**) and **PROSTITUTION**, and for the city of Las Vegas. —see colour map on pages 1374–5 —**n** *n*, *adj*

nev-er /ˈnevə/ *adv* **1** not ever; not at any time: *I've never been to Paris.* | *I've never been so annoyed in all my life!* (=I was extremely annoyed) | *I'll never forget that night.* | *Never leave your car unlocked.* | *Never (before) have I met with such great kindness.* | *“Have you ever eaten snails?” “No, and I hope I never will!”* **2** (in certain phrases) not: *Never fear!* (=don't worry) | *He never so much as said “Thanks”.* (=didn't even thank me) | *This dirty shirt will never do for your interview.* (=isn't good enough to wear) | (shows surprise) *I never knew you were interested in football!* | (*BrE*) *You're never eighteen!* (=surely not) **3** (**Well**) *I never (did)!* I've never seen/heard anything like this! —see also **never mind** (**MIND**²)

▷ **USAGE** Compare these sentences which describe how often something happens. Notice that things happen more often as you go down the list: **1** *The sun never shines at night.* **2** *I rarely/hardly ever/seldom (fml) work at the week-end.* **3** *I occasionally/sometimes work late on Fridays.* **4** *They often/frequently eat out at a restaurant.* **5** *She usually/nearly always comes to work by train.* **6** *The sun always rises in the east.* <

never-end-ing /ˌ.. -/ *adj* continuous, never stopping, or at least not for a very long time: *a never-ending catalogue of all his illnesses*

nev-er-more /ˌnevəˈmɔ:ɹ/ || -vər-/ *adv* *poet* never again —compare **EVERMORE**

never-never /ˌ.. -/ *n* on the **never-never** *BrE* humor *sl* by **HIRE PURCHASE**: *to buy a car on the never-never*

never-never land /ˌ.. -/ an imaginary and wonderful place; a **FANTASY** or dream land (from the imaginary country in the story of Peter Pan, by J M Barrie, in which children always remain children and never grow up)

nev-er-the-less /ˌnevəðəˈles/ || -vər-/ also **nonetheless**—*adv* in spite of that; yet: *What you said was true but (it was) nevertheless unkind.* | *I can't go. Nevertheless, I appreciate the invitation.* | *This year's fall in profits was not unexpected. Nevertheless, it is very disappointing.*

Ne-vis /ˈni:vɪs/ **1** an island in the Caribbean, one of the Leeward Islands and part of the state of St Kitts-Nevis **2** see **BEN NEVIS**

new /nju: || nu:z/ *adj* **1** having existed for only a short time; recently begun, made, built, etc.: *a new film* | *a new government* | *the newest fashions* | *This idea isn't new.* | *Have you seen their new baby?* [also *n*, *the*] *The new is sometimes more attractive than the old.* **2** [no comp.] not used or owned by anyone before: *They sell new and secondhand books.* | *a brand new bicycle* **3** [A] a only recently found or known: *the discovery of a new star* | *important new evidence in the murder trial* **b** having been in the stated position or state for only a short time: *a new member of the club* | *the new nations of Africa* **4** [A no comp.] different from an earlier one of the same kind; (an)other: *Our teacher got a new job, so our class had to have a new teacher.* (=another teacher) | *They've gone to Australia to start a new life.* | *The company is moving into new markets.* **5** first picked of a crop: *delicious little new peas* **6** [F+to] **a** just beginning to know about or do; still unfamiliar with: *a young clerk new to the job* **b** unfamiliar

to: *Her name is new to me: I've never heard of her before.*
7 new- newly; recently: *a newborn baby | a new-laid egg*
 —see also **NEWLY**, **NEWS** **8 What's new?** *AmE infml*
 (friendly greeting) — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

▷ **USAGE** **New** is a general word for something that exists now but has been in existence for only a short time: *a new road/law/book*. **Recent** describes something that happened or came into existence a short time ago, and is used esp. of events: *our recent holiday | The recent election produced a new government*. **Modern** covers a longer period of time than **new**, and means “belonging to the present time or the not too distant past”: *an examination in modern history, from 1550 to the present day*. | **Modern** *medical science has conquered many diseases*. **Contemporary** means “belonging to the present”: *contemporary art/music*. **Current** describes something that exists now, but was different before and may be different again: *The current fashion is for men to have short hair*. ◀

New Age Move-ment /, . ' . / [the] a development of popular interest in esp. spiritual and MYSTICAL ideas, ways of life, products, etc. which appeared in the 1980s in Britain and America. It is deeply distrusted by many FUNDAMENTALIST Christians in the US, who think the devil is behind it. — **New Age** /, . ' . / *adj*: *New Age music/jewellery*

New Age trav-el-ler /, . ' . / *n* [usu. P] *BrE* a person who has rejected (REJECT) the values of ordinary society and goes from place to place living in a vehicle (sometimes a CARAVAN, often an old bus or LORRY). They are disliked and distrusted by many people, who believe that they steal things and use drugs. —compare GIPSY

New-ark /'nju:ək||'nu:ək/ **1** a large city and port in New Jersey, US, across the Hudson River from New York **2** also **Newark International Airport** —one of the main airports serving the New York area **3** a town in Nottinghamshire, central England, officially called **Newark-on-Trent**

new blood /, . ' . / *n* [U] new members of a group, esp. when thought of as bringing new ideas, ENERGY, etc.: *What we need in this company is (some) new blood*.

new-born /'nju:bɔ:n||'nu:bɔ:n/ *adj* [A] (of a baby) recently born — **newborn** *n*: *clothes for newborns*

new broom /, . ' . / *n* esp. *BrE* a newly appointed person who is eager to make changes, not necessarily approved of by people already there

New Bruns-wick /nju: 'branzwɪk||nu:-/ a PROVINCE of Canada on the Gulf of St. Lawrence

New-burg /'nju:bɜ:g||'nu:bɜ:rg/ *adj* [F] (of seafood) cooked or served in a thick liquid made from cream, eggs, butter, wine, and NUTMEG: *lobster Newburg*

New-cas-tle /'nju:kæsəl||'nu:kæsəl/ a city, port, and important industrial centre in New South Wales, SE Australia, near the mouth of the Hunter river

Newcastle Brown /, . ' . / *n* [C;U] *tdmk* a type of strong ALE that is made in N England by Newcastle Breweries

▷ **CULTURAL NOTE** Many people from N England, esp. from Newcastle, are proud of Newcastle Brown and say that it is the best English beer ◀

New-cas-tle upon Tyne /, . ' . / also **Newcastle** — a city and port in Tyne and Wear, NE England, where the local government for that COUNTY is based. It is mainly industrial, including a large shipbuilding area and coalfields, but also has a university, castle, and CATHEDRAL. —see colour map on page 818

new-com-er /'nju:kəmər||'nu:-/ *n* [(to)] a person who has only recently arrived or only recently started an activity: *a newcomer to the city* (=visiting or living there for the first time) | *I'm a newcomer to teaching*.

new deal /, . ' . / *n* **1** a new and fairer plan of esp. social or political action: *a new deal for farmers with higher meat and milk prices* — **2** (caps.) the programme of economic and social reform introduced in the US by President Roosevelt in the 1930s

New Del-hi /, . ' . / the capital city of India, built to the south of the old city of Delhi by the British in 1912

New Dem-o-crat-ic Par-ty /, . ' . / [the] a political party in Canada which supports SOCIALIST ideas

New En-gland /, . ' . / the states of the northeast corner of the US: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Mas-

sachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. New England is connected with well-educated and fairly wealthy people, New England ACCENTS, IVY LEAGUE colleges, very neat houses, small towns and cities, long, snowy winters, and the leaves changing to bright colours in the autumn. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

New En-gland-er /, . ' . / *n* a person who lives or was born in New England

New England Jour-nal of Medi-cine /, . ' . / [the] the title of a highly-respected American magazine which reports recent discoveries or ideas in medicine, drugs, etc. Its technical language is generally suitable only for doctors and other medical professionals. —see also LANCET

New En-glish Bi-ble /, . ' . / [the] a modern English translation of the Bible, which was introduced in 1970

new-fan-gled /,nju:'fæŋgəld||,nu:-/ *adj* *derog* or *humor* (of ideas, machines, etc.) new but neither necessary nor better: *We need better teachers, not newfangled ideas about education!* | *ridiculous newfangled gadgets for chopping vegetables*

New For-est /, . ' . / [the] an area with many OAK and BEECH trees, in Hampshire, southern England. Many people spend holidays there, riding horses or walking in the woods.

New For-est po-ny /, . ' . / *n* a type of PONY (=small horse) which lives half-wild in the New Forest

new-found /, . ' . / *adj* newly discovered or obtained: *British industry has a new-found optimism now the election is over*.

New-found-land ¹ /'nju:fəndlənd||'nu:-/ a PROVINCE of eastern Canada consisting of the island of Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador. It is important for fishing.

Newfoundland ² *n* a type of large dog originally from Newfoundland. Newfoundlands are good swimmers and very strong, and are famous for saving people who are drowning.

New-gate /'nju:geɪt||'nu:-/ also **Newgate pris-on** /, . ' . / — a prison in London from about 1200 to about 1900, known for its terrible conditions and for holding some of the most famous criminals of the time

New Guin-ea /, . ' . / *n* see PAPUA NEW GUINEA

New Hamp-shire /, . ' . / *written abbrev.* **NH** — a state in the NE US, known for its beautiful lakes and mountains. It was the first state to declare its independence from Britain (1776). —see colour map on pages 1374–5

New-ha-ven /'nju:heɪvən||'nu:-/ a port and town on the S coast of England, from which ferries (FERRY¹) sail to France

New Ha-ven /, . ' . / a city and port in S Connecticut, US, an early settlement of the English Puritans (1638), and the home town of Yale University

New Heb-ri-des /, . ' . / [the] see VANUATU

Ne Win /,nei 'wɪn/ (1911–) the PRIME MINISTER of Myanmar from 1958 to 1960 and president from 1962 to 1981

New Jer-sey /, . ' . / *written abbrev.* **NJ** also **Jersey infml** — a state in NE US, with a large population and much industry. It was one of the 13 original British colonies (COLONY). —see colour maps on pages 1374–5 and page 1376

New Je-ru-sa-lem /, . ' . / [the] *bibl* a Christian name for heaven

New Kids On The Block /, . ' . / an American popular music group, first successful in the late 1980s

New Left /, . ' . / [the] a left-wing political movement, esp. among students, that began in many countries in the 1960s — ~ **ist** *n*

new-ly /'nju:li||'nu:li/ *adv* (used before a past participle) recently; freshly: *a newly built house | a newly qualified teacher | the newly industrialized nations*

new-ly-wed /'nju:liwed||'nu:-/ *n* [usu. *pl.*] a person recently married: *Mr and Mrs Smith are newlyweds/are a newlywed couple*.

New-man ¹ /'nju:mən||'nu:-/, **Cardinal John Henry** (1801–90) an English religious leader and writer

Newman ², **Paul** (1925–) an American actor and director, leading male star of Hollywood films in the 1960s and 1970s and considered very attractive. His films include

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, *The Sting*, and *The Color of Money*. —see picture at BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID

New Man /ˌnjuːmən/ *n* a man who is interested in spending time with his family and sharing the care of children and home with his partner. Such men were supposed to be more common in the 1980s and 1990s, showing less concern for making money and doing well in their CAREERS, and more for enjoying and taking responsibility for the family, esp. so that the woman in the family had time for her own career: “*The New Man — does he exist?*” | *Oh, he’s a New Man, he does all the cooking and looks after the baby.* —see also MEN’S MOVEMENT

New-mar-ket /ˌnjuːmɑːkɪt/ *n* a market town in Suffolk, SE England, a centre for horse racing, and breeding and training horses for racing, for more than 300 years

new math /ˌnjuːmæθ/ *AmE* || **modern maths** *BrE* — *n* a new way of teaching and understanding MATHEMATICS, introduced into schools in the early 1970s

New Mex-i-co /ˌnjuːmeksɪkoʊ/ (written abbrev. NM) a state in the SW US with a strong Hispanic influence. It is mostly desert or mountain forests. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

New Mod-el Ar-my /ˌnjuːmɒdəl ˈɑːrmi/ [the] the British army as re-organized (ORGANIZE) during the English Civil War of 1645 by the Parliamentarians —see CIVIL WAR

new mon-ey /ˌnjuːmɒni/ also **new rich** — *n* [U+sing./pl. v] *AmE* infml for NOUVEAU RICHE

new moon /ˌnjuːmʊn/ *n* 1 the time when the moon is between the Earth and the sun, and cannot be seen 2 the bright thin edge of the moon seen a few days after this — compare FULL MOON, HALF MOON

New Mu-sic-al Ex-press /ˌnjuːmjuːzɪkəl ˈekspreʃ/ abbrev. NME — a British weekly newspaper, read esp. by young people, which has news about popular music

New Or-le-ans /ˌnjuːɔːrliːənz/ *n* a city in Louisiana in the southern US, on the Mississippi river. It is famous for the French influences on its streetlife and nightlife, the **Mardi Gras** CARNIVAL every year, and the JAZZ and BLUES music made there. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

New-port /ˌnjuːpɔːrt/ 1 a city and port in Gwent, SE Wales, where the local government for that COUNTY is based. It is known for the making of steel and the shipping (SHIP² (1)) of coal. 2 a town in the Isle of Wight in S England, where the local government for the island is based 3 a wealthy city in Rhode Island, US; an important naval port

Newport Jazz Fes-ti-val /ˌnjuːpɔːrt ˈdʒæz ˈfɛstɪvəl/ [the] a gathering of JAZZ¹ (1) musicians, originally held in 1954 at Newport, Rhode Island, and now held yearly in three places in New York State

new po-ta-to /ˌnjuːpɒtətoʊ/ *n* a potato from one of the first crops of a year, rather than one which has been stored from the previous year

new rich /ˌnjuːrɪʃ/ *n* [U+sing./pl. v] *AmE* for NOUVEAU RICHE — **new rich** *adj*: new rich behaviour

New Right /ˌnjuːraɪt/ [the] (in the 1980s) (a movement of) people supporting a system in which the state does not have control over education, health, industrial activity, etc.

news /njuːz/ *n* 1 [U (of, about)] facts that are reported about a recent event or events; new information: *a piece/item of news* | *What’s the latest* (=most recent) *news about the election?* | *News is just coming in of a serious plane crash.* | *Have you heard any news from your son lately?* (=received a letter or telephone call, etc.) | *You’d better break the news* (=tell it) *to her gently that her daughter has left home.* 2 [the] a regular report of recent events broadcast on radio and television: *I heard it on the 9 o’clock news.* 3 **All the news that’s fit to print** the MOTTO of the New York Times 4 **bad news travels fast** saying people very quickly hear about bad news 5 **news to someone** infml something which one has not heard before: *There’s no class tomorrow? That’s news to me!* (=no one told me) 6 **no news is good news** saying if you are waiting for news about something, and you have not heard anything yet, it is probably the case that the news will be good when it arrives

news a-gen-cy /ˌnjuːz ˈædʒənsi/ *n* a company that supplies informa-

tion to newspapers, radio, and television

news-a-gent /ˌnjuːz ˈeɪdʒənt/ *n* *BrE* || **news deal-er** /ˌnjuːz ˈdiːlɜː/ *AmE* — *n* a person who owns or works in a shop (newsagent’s) which sells newspapers and magazines: *Is there a newsagent’s near here?*

News at Ten /ˌnjuːz ˈæt ˈten/ [the] in Britain, a television news programme broadcast by ITN at 10 p.m. every weekday —compare NINE O’CLOCK NEWS

news bul-le-tin /ˌnjuːz ˈbʊlɪtɪn/ *n* a short report about events which have happened very recently, made public without delay: *a television news bulletin about the rapidly-changing situation in Georgia*

news-cast-er /ˌnjuːz ˈkɑːstə/ || *n* *BrE* also **newsreader** esp. *BrE* — *n* a person who broadcasts news on radio or television

New Sci-en-tist /ˌnjuːs ˈsaɪntɪst/ [the] a British weekly magazine which has news about recent developments in science and TECHNOLOGY

news con-fer-ence /ˌnjuːz ˈkɒnfərəns/ *n* a PRESS CONFERENCE

New Scot-land Yard /ˌnjuːs ˈskɒtlənd ˈjɑːd/ the official name for SCOTLAND YARD

news-flash /ˌnjuːz ˈflæʃ/ *n* a short news broadcast, usu. in the middle of another television programme, when something very important has happened: *I’ve just seen a newsflash saying that Margaret Thatcher has resigned.*

News from No-where /ˌnjuːz frɒm ˈnɔːweə/ a Utopian SOCIALIST FANTASY by William Morris, written in 1890

news-hound /ˌnjuːz ˈhaʊnd/ *n* a very eager newspaper reporter, who is always looking for new stories

news-let-ter /ˌnjuːz ˈletə/ *n* a small sheet of printed news sent regularly to a particular group of people: *the company newsletter*

News-night /ˌnjuːz ˈnaɪt/ *n* a British television programme broadcast on BBC2 in the late evening, in which there is discussion about the news and current affairs

News of the World /ˌnjuːz ɒv ðə ˈwɜːld/ [the] a popular TABLOID Sunday newspaper sold in Britain, known esp. for printing stories about the marriage problems, sexual SCANDALS, and details of the private lives of the rich and famous — see extra information on page 896

New South Wales /ˌnjuːs ˈaʊθ ˈweɪls/ a state in SE Australia bordering on the Pacific Ocean; economically the most important state, producing steel, coal, grain and wool

news-pa-per /ˌnjuːz ˈpeɪpə/ *n* 1 [C] also **paper** — set of large folded sheets of paper containing news, articles, advertisements, etc., printed and sold usu. daily or weekly: *an evening newspaper* | *the Sunday papers* | *the editor of a well-known national newspaper* — see also extra information on page 896 2 [U] paper on which these have been printed: *Wrap it up in newspaper.* —compare NEWSPRINT 3 [C] a company which produces a newspaper: *One of our oldest newspapers has just gone out of business.*

news-pa-per-man /ˌnjuːz ˈpeɪpə ˈmæn/ *n* -men /men/ a person who has worked, usu. for many years, as a reporter on a newspaper

newspaper stand /ˌnjuːz ˈpeɪpə ˈstænd/ *n* a NEWSSTAND

new-speak /ˌnjuːz ˈspiːk/ *n* [U] derog language whose meanings are slightly changed to make people believe things that are not quite true (from the language used in the book *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell, which describes life in the future when the government controls everyone’s lives completely)

news-print /ˌnjuːz ˈprɪnt/ *n* [U] tech cheap paper used mostly for printing newspapers on

news-read-er /ˌnjuːz ˈriːdɜː/ *n* esp. *BrE* for NEWSCASTER

news-reel /ˌnjuːz ˈriːl/ *n* a short cinema film of news



Newspapers in Britain

National and local newspapers

In Britain there are 11 national daily newspapers and most people read one of them every day. There are two kinds of newspaper. One is large in size and has many detailed articles about national and international events. These newspapers are called the serious papers or the QUALITY PAPERS. The other kind, called the TABLOIDS are smaller in size, have more pictures, often in colour, and shorter articles, often about less important events or about the private lives of well-known people. Although some people disapprove of the tabloids, more people buy them than buy the serious newspapers. The *Sun*, for example, which is a tabloid, is the biggest-selling newspaper in Britain. People who disapprove of the tabloids very strongly sometimes call them the GUTTER PRESS.

There are daily or weekly newspapers in all parts of Britain which cover local news as well as some national and international stories. Local papers give information about films, concerts, and other things that are happening in the local neighbourhood, including, for example, information about local people who have been married or died recently. National papers generally give information about film, concerts and other events happening in London. In Scotland, many people read the *Glasgow Herald* or the *Scotsman* (serious newspapers) and there are Scottish EDITIONS (=newspapers with special news for Scotland) of the tabloids.

There are also many free local newspapers which are delivered to people's homes whether they ask for them or not. These contain a lot of advertisements and also some news.

Politics

Most national newspapers in Britain express a political opinion and people choose the newspaper that they read according to their own political beliefs. Most of the newspapers are RIGHT-WING. These are the *Daily Telegraph* (serious newspaper), the *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Star*, the *Sun* and *Today* (all tabloids). Of the other serious newspapers, *The Times*, the oldest newspaper in Britain, did not formerly have one strong political view but it is now more right-wing. The *Guardian* is slightly left-wing. The *Independent* does not support any one political party, and neither does the *Financial Times*, which concentrates on business and financial news. The *Daily Mirror* (tabloid) is left-wing. —see also SUN-READER, GUARDIAN-READER.

Daily and Sunday newspapers

Daily newspapers are published on every day of the week except Sunday. Sunday newspapers are larger than daily newspapers, often having 2 or 3 sections. There is also often

a magazine, called the COLOUR SUPPLEMENT. All the Sunday newspapers are national. Serious newspapers include the *Observer* (which is slightly left-wing), the *Sunday Times*, the *Sunday Telegraph* and the *Independent on Sunday*, the *Sunday Mirror*, the *Sunday Express*, the *News of the World* (right-wing and known for containing stories about sex and SCANDAL) and the *Sunday Sport* which is considered to lack much serious information.

Newspapers in the US

National and local newspapers

There are more than 1500 daily newspapers in the US. Each one is usually sold only in one part of the country, e.g. in a city, but they cover national and international news. In larger cities, there is often more than one newspaper and the different ones express different political opinions. Some newspapers are sold in nearly all parts of the US, e.g. *USA Today*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the national edition of the *New York Times*. Two other newspapers, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post* are known and respected all over the US but cannot be bought everywhere. Other important newspapers are: the *Boston Globe*, sold in New England, the *Chicago Tribune*, sold in the Midwest, the *Rocky Mountain News*, sold in the mountain states, and the *Christian Science Monitor*, sold in cities nationally.

There are also weekly newspapers in all parts of the US which cover local news, such as what is happening in the local neighbourhood. Fewer people read these than read the daily newspapers.

Daily and Sunday newspapers

Daily newspapers are published (PUBLISH) on every day of the week except Sunday. Sunday newspapers are very big, often having several separate parts (SECTIONS(1)). They contain many longer articles and a lot of advertisements. Each section deals with a different subject, e.g. national and international news, sport, travel, etc. One section, the CLASSIFIEDS has advertisements for jobs and things for sale. Another section has CARTOONS and COMIC STRIPS (=humorous drawings) and is called the FUNNIES. There is often also a magazine which is in colour.

Alternative newspapers

In the 1960s a group of newspapers began to appear that were later called the 'alternative press'. They expressed extreme political opinions, especially LEFT-WING opinions. Many of the newspapers which were part of this movement, such as the *Village Voice* in New York or the *Reader* in Chicago, are less extreme today and more widely read.

**NEWS OF THE
WORLD**

The New York Times

The Washington Post

FINANCIAL TIMES



THE SCOTSMAN



news-room /'nju:zrʊm, -ru:m||'nu:z-/ *n* the office in a newspaper or broadcasting station where news is received and news reports are written

news-sheet /'nju:zʃi:t||'nu:z-/ *n* a small newspaper, usu. of one or two pages

news-stand /'nju:zstænd||'nu:z-/ *n* a table or STALL, e.g. on a street or in a station, from which newspapers and sometimes magazines and books are sold

New States-man and So-ci-e-ty /· · · · ·' / a serious British weekly magazine which contains news articles and opinions, political argument, and arts reviews. It is thought to represent an independent view and often criticizes the government.

news-ven-dor /'nju:z,vendəʀ||'nu:z-/ *n* esp. BrE a person who sells newspapers

News-week /'nju:zwi:k||'nu:z-/ an American weekly magazine containing articles about news and current affairs

news-wor-thy /'nju:z,wɜ:ði||'nu:z,wɜ:rði/ *adj* important or interesting enough to be reported as news

news-y /'nju:zi||'nu:zi/ *adj* filled with not very serious news: *a newsy letter*

newt /nju:t||nu:t/ *n* a small four-legged animal, similar to a FROG but with a tail, living on land and in water

new tech-nol-o-gy /· · ·' / *n* [(the) U] the production and use, esp. in business and industry, of computers and systems that use computers: *I can't cope with all the new technology we've got at work now.*

New Ter-ri-to-ries /· · ·' / *n* [(the) + P] the part of Hong Kong leased (LEASE) by Great Britain from China. The lease runs for 99 years from 1898.

New Tes-ta-ment /· · ·' / [(the)] the second part of the Bible, containing the earliest Christian writings. It includes the four Gospels, describing the teachings and life of Jesus. —compare OLD TESTAMENT

New-ton /'nju:tn||'nu:z-, Isaac (1642–1727) an English PHYSICIST and MATHEMATICIAN who discovered the law of GRAVITY and many other laws and scientific theories (THEORY) which helped to shape the study of PHYSICS. Newton is often shown in pictures holding an apple, because he is supposed to have discovered the law of gravity when an apple fell on his head while he was sitting under a tree.

Newton-John /· · ·' /, **O-liv-i-a** /ə'lɪviə/ (1948–) an Australian popular music singer, born in Britain, who was successful esp. in the 1970s and popular with people of all ages. She appeared with John Travolta in the films *Saturday Night Fever* and *Grease*.

new town /· · ·' / *n* any of several towns built in Britain since 1946, each planned and built as a whole with factories, houses, shops, etc.: *Harlow New Town* —compare GARDEN CITY

new wave /· · ·' / *n* (often caps.) (a group of people making) a conscious effort to change the styles of art, film-making, etc., esp. a in the French cinema of the 1960s, using new methods of photography b in the popular music of the late 1970s, using a strong beat and expressing strong social opinions

New World /· · ·' / [(the)] North, Central, and South America; the Western Hemisphere —compare OLD WORLD

new year /· · ·' / *n* [(the) U] (often caps.) the year which has just begun or will soon begin: *Let's hope things will improve in the new year.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The beginning of a new year is regarded as a time for celebrating and for making a new start. Around the time of the new year people wish each other "Happy New Year" and some send special greeting cards. Many people make **New Year's resolutions**, when they promise that they will improve their behaviour and give up bad habits, e.g. they will lose weight or give up smoking; no one really expects these promises to last for very long. On **New Year's Eve** (December 31st) many people in the US, Britain, and esp. in Scotland, go to parties or get together with their families, neighbours or friends, and stay up until midnight to "see the New Year in". They sing a special song, **Auld Lang Syne**, and some get very drunk. In London people gather to celebrate in Trafalgar Square; from there they can hear Big Ben, the large clock at the Houses of Parliament. When it is nearly midnight everyone is very quiet, but when Big Ben strikes they all cheer, sing, hug and kiss each other and shout "Happy New Year"; some kiss the

police who are there to control the crowd. **New Year's Day** (January 1st) is a public holiday in Britain and the US. — see also AULD LANG SYNE, FIRST FOOTING, HOGMANAY ◀

New Year's Hon-ours /· · ·' / [(the)] a list (made public on January 1st each year) in which various people in Britain are given honours, such as OBEs, MBEs, etc., for service to the country in some way

New York Cit-y /· · ·' / also **New York**—; written abbrev. NYC the largest city and richest port in the US, on the SE coast in NEW YORK STATE. —see colour maps on pages 1376 and 1374–5

► **CULTURAL NOTE** New York City is an international leader in trade, finance, and the performing arts. The city is divided into five BOROUGHs: MANHATTAN, the BRONX, BROOKLYN, QUEENS, and RICHMOND. Though many people avoid and fear the city for its crime and crowds, others love it for its entertainment and CULTURE (2) —see also BIG APPLE, BROADWAY, CENTRAL PARK, MADISON AVENUE, WALL STREET — compare NEW YORK STATE ◀

New York Dra-ma Crit-ics Cir-cle A-ward /· · · · ·' / a group of newspaper writers on the theatre which gives prizes for excellent work in the theatre each year

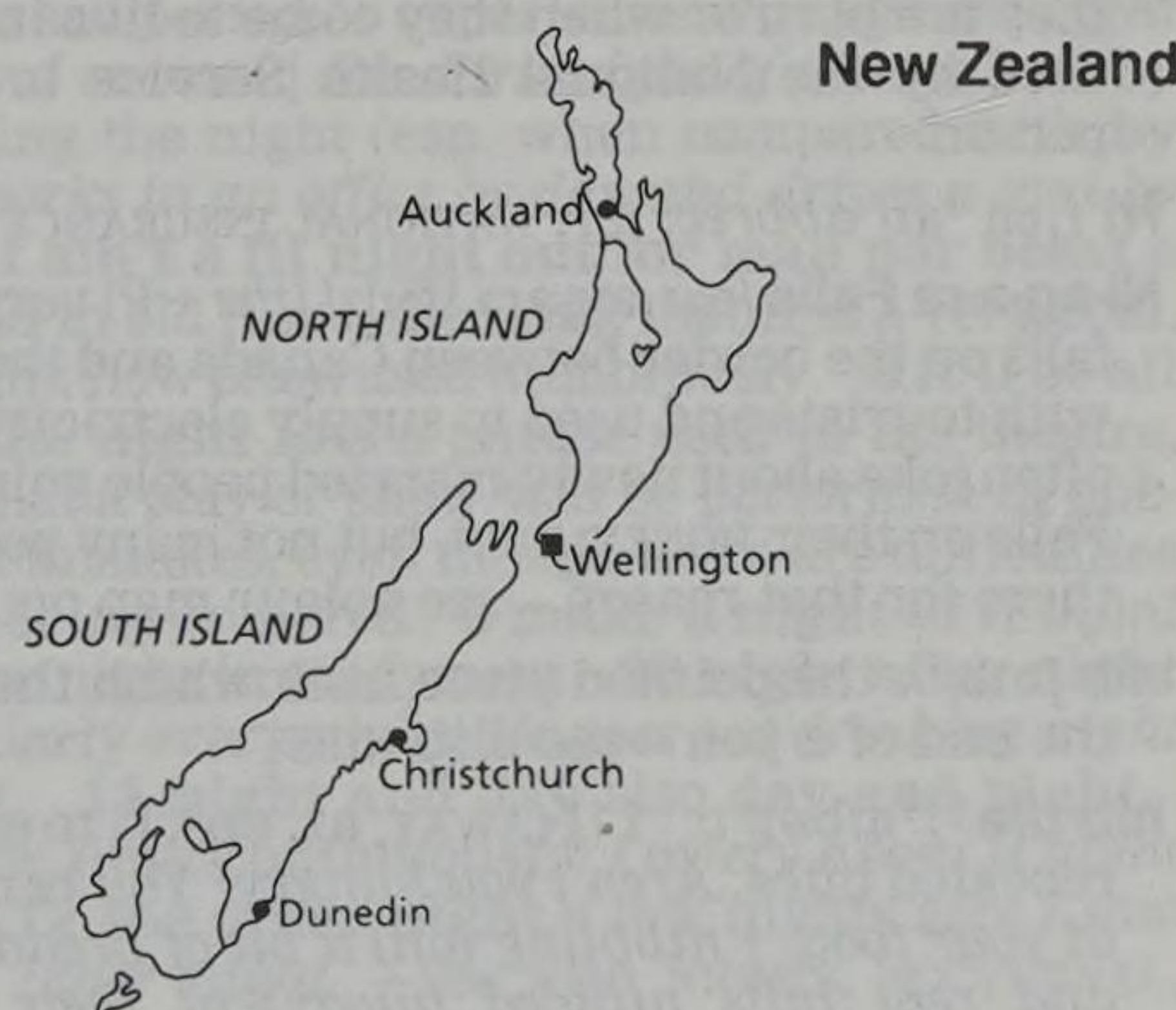
New York-er /nju: 'jɔ:kəʀ||nu: 'jɔ:r-/ *n* a person who lives or was born in New York, esp. New York City

New Yorker² [(the)] a popular weekly arts magazine mostly about New York City, but also with articles that cover many interesting subjects, and short stories. It is a highly respected magazine read by educated people and it is considered an achievement for writers to get their work into the **New Yorker**. It is also well known for its very funny CARTOONS.

New York State /· · ·' / also **New York**—; written abbrev. NY a state in the NE US. Its capital is Albany and its largest city is NEW YORK CITY. New York State is famous for its beauty, esp. its trees, mountains, and rivers. It was one of the 13 original British colonies (COLONY) — compare NEW YORK CITY

New York Stock Ex-change /· · ·' · · ·' / (abbrev. NYSE) [(the)] a market where shares in companies are bought and sold. It is one of the three main such markets in the world, the others being in Tokyo and London.

New York Times /· · ·' / [(the)] a serious newspaper printed in New York which is read around the world as a guide to American opinion. It is one of only two daily newspapers that are available almost everywhere in the US, and it is highly respected for the quality of its reporting. —see extra information on page 893



New Zea-land /nju: 'zi:zlənd||nu:z-/ a country consisting of two main islands (North Island and South Island) and some smaller ones, in the Pacific Ocean SE of Australia; capital Wellington; population 3,312,000 (1989). It is known mainly for its farming, esp. lamb, meat, and butter. The population is mainly of British origin, with some Maori people who were the first settlers there. — ~er *n*

next¹ /nekst/ *determiner* 1 closest in space, order, or degree; without anything coming before or between: *The next house to ours is a mile away.* | *Take the next left turn after the school.* | *When you've finished this chapter go on to the next one.* | *Japan is the main market for our products, and the next biggest market is Germany.* | *The quickest way is by train; the next best way is to go by road.* 2 immediately following in time; the one after the one mentioned or after the present: *Where will you be during the next few weeks?* | *Will you be at our next*

meeting? | How long will it be till the next election? | The law was passed in 1962, but three years later it was repealed by the next government. | (without the) Next time you see her, give her my best wishes. | the week after next | We went there last Sunday and we're going again next Sunday. —compare LAST¹ (3) **3 (the) next day** the day after: She rang me and we arranged to meet the next day. —compare **the other day** (OTHER) **4 Next (please)**. Will the next person waiting please speak/come forward? —see also **next of kin** (KIN)

next² adv **1** just afterwards: What will you do next? | I like tennis best of all and swimming next. | First, you heat the fat; next, you add the onions. **2** at the first time after this or that: I'll tell you the answer when we next meet. —compare LAST² (2) **3 next to: a** closest to; beside: the table next to the door | Can I sit next to you? **b** closest to, in order, degree, etc.: Next to biology, I like physics best. | the next-to-last name on the list **c** almost: He earns next to nothing. | It's next to impossible to drive in this weather.

Next one of a group of shops in Britain which sell fashionable clothes for adults and children as well as furnishings. They sell some of their products in a CATALOGUE, the **Next Directory**.

next-door /ˌnɛks.dɔː/ *adj* [A] in or being the next building, esp. in a row: next-door neighbours

next door /ˌnɛks.dɔː/ *adv* [(to)] **1** in or being the next building: the people next door | We live next door to a restaurant. **2 next door to** almost the same as: Knocking someone down in your car when you're drunk is next door to murder.

nex-us /ˈnɛksəs/ *n* a connection or network of connections between objects, ideas, etc.

NF /ˌen ˈef/ *abbrev. for:* NATIONAL FRONT

NFL /ˌen ef ˈel/ [*the*] National Football League; the group of US professional football teams whose games are shown on television —see also FOOTBALL (2)

NFT /ˌen ef ˈtiːz/ *abbrev. for:* NATIONAL FILM THEATRE

NFU /ˌen ef ˈjuː/ *abbrev. for:* NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

NH *written abbrev. for:* NEW HAMPSHIRE

NHL /ˌen eɪtʃ ˈel/ [*the*] National Hockey League; the group of US and Canadian ICE HOCKEY teams who play games against one another

NHS /ˌen eɪtʃ ˈes/ *abbrev. for:* National Health Service: NHS hospitals | Can I get my glasses on the NHS?

NHS num-ber /ˌnɛks.ɪz/ *n* National Health Service number; a number which everyone in Britain is given when they are born or when they come to live in Britain. It is used by the National Health Service to IDENTIFY the person.

NI /ˌen ˈaɪ/ *abbrev. for:* NATIONAL INSURANCE

Ni-ag-a-ra Falls /naɪ.æɡərə ˈfɔːlz/ [*the* + P] very large waterfalls on the border between Canada and the US, popular with tourists and used to supply electricity. Americans often joke about newly-married people going to Niagara Falls on their HONEYMOON, but not many people really go there for that reason —see colour map on pages 1374–5

nib /nɪb/ *n* the pointed piece from which the ink flows at the end of a pen —see also NIBS

nib-ble /ˈnɪbəl/ *v* **1** [I (AWAY, at, on); T] to eat with small repeated bites: Aren't you hungry? You're only nibbling at your food. | nibbling (on) a bit of bread | (fig.) Food and rent bills nibbled (away) at their savings. **2** [T+obj+adv/prep] to make (a hole) in this way: The mice have nibbled a hole in the cheese. | The mice nibbled their way through the wooden door. **3** [I (at)] to show slight interest in something, esp. an offer or suggestion

nibble ² *n infml* **1** [(at)] an act of nibbling: I haven't sold my car yet but I've had a few nibbles. (=some people have shown interest) **2** a very small amount of food

nibs /nɪbz/ *n humor* his or her nibs *sl* an important person, or one who thinks he/she is important: His nibs has wine with his meal, but we only get water.

Nic-a-rag-u-a /ˌnɪkəˈræɡjuə/ -ˈræːgwə/ the largest republic of Central America between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean which has a small population and produces cotton, coffee, rice, sugar, and tobacco; capital Managua; population 3,745,000 (1989). In the 1980s it suffered CIVIL WAR between the left-wing Sandinista government and the Contras, who were helped by the US.

—see also CONTRA, SANDINISTA —**Nicaraguan** *n, adj*

nice /naɪs/ *adj* **1 a** kind or friendly: She's the nicest person I know. | I know you don't like him but try to be nice to him. | It was nice of you to help us. **b** giving pleasure; good: a nice day (=with good weather) | This soup tastes very nice. | How nice to see you! | Have a nice time at the party! | It'd be nice if we could meet soon. **2 fml** showing or needing careful understanding or decision; delicate; SUBTLE: a nice point of law | a nice distinction between two meanings **3** becoming rare having (too) high standards of moral or social behaviour; RESPECTABLE: Nice girls don't go there! **4 infml derog** bad; unpleasant: That's a nice way to welcome your aunt, staring at the television! **5 have a nice day** *esp. AmE* a phrase used when saying goodbye to someone during the day, esp. by people in shops, restaurants etc. to their customers. **6 nice ... , pity/shame about the ... infml humor. a phrase used when saying that a person or thing has something that is good, but is spoilt by something that is bad: nice face, shame about the body | nice cinema, shame about the film **7 nice and infml** (used before adjectives and adverbs to give a favourable meaning): The soup is nice and hot. | I didn't like the speech, but at least it was nice and short. — ~ness *n* [U]**

▷ **USAGE** Nice is very commonly used in speech, but in formal writing it is better to avoid it, and to use **amusing, beautiful, interesting**, etc., according to the meaning. ◁

Nice /niːs/ a city on the Mediterranean coast of France, famous as a fashionable place for tourists to stay, and also a port and industrial area

nicely /ˈnaɪsli/ *adv* **1** well; in a good, pleasant, kind, or skilful way: to smile nicely | The injured man is doing nicely (=his condition is all right) in hospital. **2** exactly; delicately: a nicely calculated distance

ni-ce-ty /ˈnaɪsɪti/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being NICE (2); delicateness **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a fine or delicate point or difference; detail: Let's answer the question in general: we haven't time to consider all the niceties. **3 BrE** to a nicety exactly: She calculated the amount to a nicety.

niche ¹ /nɪtʃ, niːʃ/ *n* **1 a** hollow place in a wall, usu. made to hold a piece of art such as a BUST or STATUE **2** [(in)] a suitable place, job, etc.: He's found a niche (for himself) in the book trade.

niche ² *n* (of a product or a company) aimed at a particular group of people: a niche travel operator

Nicholas, Saint see SAINT NICHOLAS

Nich-o-las I /ˌnɪkələs ðə ˈfɜːst/ -ˈfɜːrst/ (1796–1855) the TSAR of Russia from 1825 who fought against Turkey and also in the Crimean War

Nicholas II /ˌnɪkələs ðə ˈsekənd/ (1868–1918) the TSAR of Russia from 1894–1917, whose bad management of foreign and home affairs led to the Revolution of 1905. He was also responsible for taking Russia into the First World War. During the Russian Revolution of 1917 he was forced to ABDICATE (=stop being ruler), and was shot with his family in 1918.

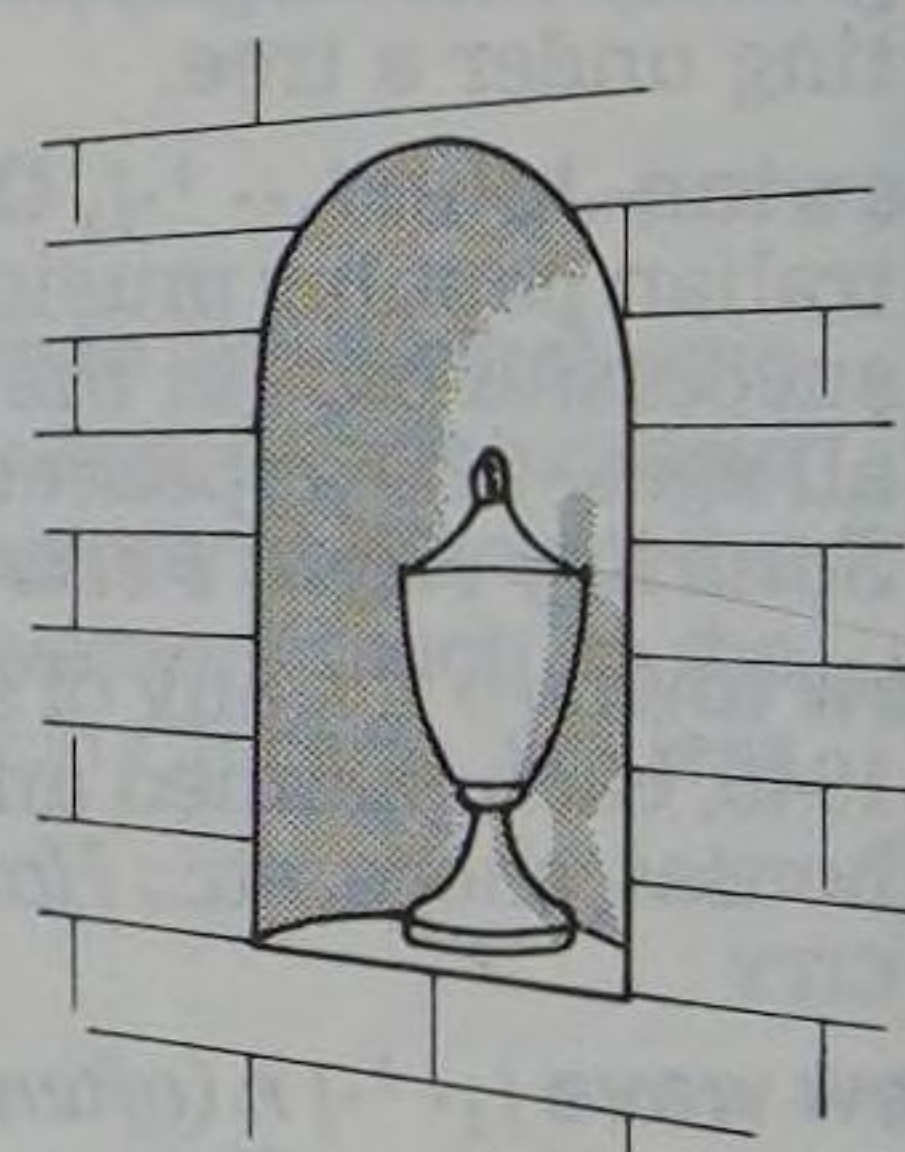
Nicholas Nick-le-by /ˌnɪkələs ˈnɪkəlbi/ a character in a book of the same name by Charles Dickens. The story was also made into a long play which was very successful.

Nich-ol-son /ˈnɪkəlsən/, **Jack** (1937–) an American film actor who started appearing in films in the 1960s, such as *Easy Rider*, which represented the feelings of young Americans, and has now become a big Hollywood star, in films including *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Batman* —see colour picture on page 228

nick ¹ /nɪk/ *n* **1** [C] a small often accidental cut in a surface or edge **2** [*the*] BrE infml prison or police station: ten years in the nick **3 in the nick of time** just in time; at the necessary moment: I saw the baby was about to fall off and I caught it just in the nick of time.

nick ² *v* [T] **1** to cut a nick in: A bullet nicked his leg. **2 infml, esp. BrE** to steal: Someone's nicked my bicycle.

niche



3 *BrE sl* for **ARREST**: *The police nicked him for stealing my bicycle.* **4** [(for)] *infml, esp. AmE* to charge too much: *They nicked me for \$30 just to have my hair cut!*

nick³ *n* [U] *BrE sl* a stated physical condition; **SHAPE**¹ (3): *The doctor says my heart is still in good nick.* | *The house is in excellent nick.* (=in very good repair)

nick-el¹ /'nɪkəl/ *n* **1** [U] a hard silver-white metal that is a simple substance (**ELEMENT**) and is used in the production of other metals **2** [C] a coin of the US or Canada worth five cents —compare **CENT**

nickel² also **nickel-plate** /,niːkəl/ *v* -ll-*BrE* || -l-*AmE*— [T] to put a thin surface of nickel over: *nickelled/nickel-plated steel*

nickel-and-dime /,niːkəl ˈdɪm/ *adj* *AmE* unimportant; not involving much money: *a nickel-and-dime operation/theory*

nick-er /'nɪkə/ *n* **nicker** *BrE old-fash sl* a pound; £1: *You can have it for 50 nicker.*

Nick-lauss /'nɪklaʊs/, **Jack** (1940–) an American **GOLF** player who has won many important titles

Nickleby, **Nicholas** see **NICHOLAS NICKLEBY**

nick-nack /'nɪknæk/ *n infml* a **KNICK-KNACK**

nick-name /'nɪkneɪm/ *n* a name used informally instead of a person's own name, usu. a short form of the actual name or a name connected with one's character or history. Nicknames are often given at school to annoy or upset other children, and many last into adult life. — **nickname** *v* [T+obj+n]: *They nicknamed him "Lofty" because he was so tall.*

Nic-o-si-a /,nɪkə'siːə/ the capital city of Cyprus, important for producing leather goods, **POTTERY**, and **TEXTILES**

nic-o-tine /'nɪkətɪn/ *n* [U] a poisonous chemical which provides the taste and effect of tobacco

nicotine patch /'nɪkə'tɪn ˈpætʃ/ *n* a small piece of a material containing nicotine which is stuck on to the skin of a person who wants to give up smoking. The nicotine gradually gets into their blood through their skin, so that they do not need to smoke to get it.

niece /niːs/ *n* **1** the daughter of one's brother or sister **2** the daughter of one's wife's or husband's brother or sister —compare **NEPHEW**

Niel-sen Rat-ings /'niːlsən ˈreɪtɪŋz/ [*the* + P] also **Nielsens**— information produced by **Nielsen Media Research**, an American company that finds out how many people watch different television programmes. The ratings are used to decide how much companies have to pay to advertise their products during a particular programme.

Nietz-sche /'niːtʃə/, **Fried-rich** /'friːdrɪk, -ɪx/ (1844–1900) a German thinker and writer whose most famous books are *Thus Spake Zarathustra* and *The Antichrist*. He writes that "God is dead", meaning that the values which support Christian culture have come to an end. He announces the coming of the "Übermensch" (=Superman), who creates his own values and enjoys the highest freedom. The idea of the Superman was misused by the Nazis to support their racist beliefs. — ~ **an** /'niːtʃən/ *adj*

niff /nɪf/ *n* [S] *BrE infml* a bad smell — ~ **y** *adj*

nif-ty /'nɪftɪ/ *adj infml* very good, attractive, or effective: *a nifty little gadget for squeezing oranges*

Ni-ger /'naɪdʒə, niː'ʒeə/ || 'naɪdʒər/ **1** a country in W Africa bordered by Burkino Faso and Mali in W and by Nigeria and Benin in S; capital Niamey; population 6,895,000 (1989) **2** [*the*] the third longest river in Africa, running through Mali, Niger, and Nigeria — **Nigerian** /niː'ʒeər-ɪən/ *n, adj*

Ni-ge-ri-a /naɪ'dʒɪəriə/ an oil producing country in W Africa bordered by Benin in W, Niger in N, and Chad and Cameroon in E; capital Abuja; largest city Lagos; population 109,175,000 (1989) — **Nigerian** *n, adj*

nig-gard /'nɪgəd/ *n derog* a niggardly person

nig-gard-ly /'nɪgədli/ *adj derog* **1** (of a person) not willing to spend money, time, etc.; **STINGY** **2** spent or given unwillingly; **MEAGRE**: *a niggardly offer for such a good car* | *niggardly praise* — **liness** *n* [U]

nig-ger /'nɪgə/ *n* **1** *taboo derog* a black person (considered extremely offensive)

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The various words used in Great Britain and the US to describe people of African or Asian origin are used in different situations, and with different mean-

ings, by people with particular views. Offensive words, marked *taboo* in this dictionary, such as **nigger**, **coon**, **wog**, **nignog**, or **darkie**, are not considered acceptable when used by white people, showing a dislike of black people and a lack of awareness of the racist nature of these words. **Nigger**, however, may be used inoffensively by a black person about himself or another person, and is sometimes even a positive word, used to show pride. The word **coloured** was once considered inoffensive, but is now mostly used by older people, and is not acceptable today. It is also used in *SAfrE* as a technical term for a person of mixed race, under the system of **APARTHEID** where these classes affect people's position and rights in society. ◀

In Britain and the US now, the most common word is **black** (*sometimes cap.*) as in the phrases the **black community/black theatre** etc. However, people of Asian descent do not always like being included in this group so care should be taken with its use. In the US, **black** refers only to people of African origin, never to Asians. —see also **AFRICAN-AMERICAN** **2 nigger in the woodpile** now *taboo* (someone who causes) an unexpected problem

nig-gle /'nɪgəl/ *v* [I] **1** [(about, over)] to pay too much attention to small details, esp. when finding fault: *She niggled over every detail of the bill.* **2** [(at)] to annoy someone slightly but continually: *There's still a doubt niggling at my brain.* — **gler** *n*

nig-gling /'nɪgəlɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** slightly and continually annoying: *a niggling doubt* **2** (of a piece of work) needing too much attention to detail: *a niggling job*

nigh /naɪ/ *adv, prep* **1** *poet or old use* near: *The time has drawn nigh.* (=it has nearly come) **2** **nigh on/onto/unto** *dial or old use* almost —see also **WELL-NIGH**

night /naɪt/ *n* **1** [C;U] the dark part of each 24-hour period, when the sun cannot be seen: *The nights are longer in winter.* | *Nurses often have to work at night.* | *The moon gives light by/at night.* | *Night began to fall.* (=it started to get dark) | *a few nights ago* | *The hotel charges \$60 a night.* | *Where were you on the night of January 16th?* **2** [C;U] **a** the earlier part of this period; the evening: *We'll be out tomorrow night.* | *to go dancing on Saturday night(s)* | *Is that programme at 10 o'clock in the morning or 10 o'clock at night?* **b** the period after bedtime: *to sleep well all night* | *The baby woke up twice in the night.* | *Where did you stay last night?* **3** [C] a special occasion taking place in the evening: *We saw the show on its first night.* (=first performance) | *It was a great night — everyone was there.* **4** [C *usu. sing.*] the evening of a stated holiday, etc.: *Christmas night* —compare **EVE** (1) **5** [C (of)] *lit* a sad period or experience: *through the night of doubt and sorrow* | *the dark night of the soul* **6** **by night** during the night (esp. when compared with **by day**): *He works in an office by day and drives a taxi by night.* **7** **it ain't a fit night out for man nor beast** a phrase used in old films, meaning that it is a very cold, stormy night; now often used humorously. **8** **it'll be all right on the night** *BrE* a phrase used in the theatre, meaning that a play or show will be performed in public without mistakes, even though there are difficulties while it is being prepared **9** **make a night of it** *infml* to spend the night in enjoyment **10** **night after night** *infml* regularly every night: *He goes out drinking night after night.* **11** **night and day** also **day and night**—*infml* all the time; continuously: *I worry about it night and day.* **12** **the other night** a few nights ago: *I saw David the other night.* —see also **NIGHTS**, **NOCTURNAL**, **MORNING**, **noon**, and **night** (**MORNING**)

Night Before Christ-mas /,niːt bɪˈkrɪst mæs/ *The* a poem by Clement Moore which contains many of the popular ideas and images that Americans connect with Santa Claus. It has been set to music, made into a television film, and appears printed in newspapers and magazines at Christmastime.

night blind-ness /'niːt blɪnd nəs/ *n* [U] inability to see things in bad light

night-cap /'naɪtkæp/ *n* **1** a *usu.* alcoholic drink taken before going to bed **2** a soft cloth cap worn in bed in former times

night-clothes /'naɪtkləʊðz, -kləʊz/ *n* [P] any variety of clothes worn in bed by men, women, or children

night-club /'naɪtklʌb/ *n* a place of entertainment open late at night where people can eat, drink, dance, and often see a show

night-club-bing /'naɪt,klʌbɪŋ/ *BrE*, also **clubbing** *n* [U] the visiting of nightclubs

night crawler /'nʌɪt,krɔːl/ *n AmE* a large worm that lives in the soil (EARTHWORM) and comes out at night, often used as BAIT in fishing

night de-pos-i-to-ry /'nʌɪt,deɪpəzɪtəri/ *n AmE* for NIGHT SAFE

night-dress /'naɪtdres/ also **nigh-tie** /'naɪti/ *infml*, **night-gown** /-gaʊn/ *AmE*— *n* a piece of women's clothing like a loose dress, made to be worn in bed —compare NIGHTSHIRT

night-fall /'naɪtfɔːl/ *n* [U] the beginning of night; DUSK: *We gave up the search at nightfall.*

night-hawk /'naɪthɔːk/ *n AmE* for NIGHT OWL

nigh-tin-gale /'naɪtɪŋgeɪl/ *n* a bird (a kind of THRUSH) known for its beautiful song

Nightingale, Florence

(1820–1910) an English nurse who became a national HEROINE during the Crimean War when she set up a hospital for soldiers at Scutari. She became known as the *Lady with the Lamp* because she used to walk round the hospital in the evenings with a lamp, to check that everything was in order. She established nursing as a profession, and as a respectable job for women.

Florence Nightingale



night-life /'naɪtlaɪf/ *n* [U] evening entertainment or social activity, e.g. in BARS, NIGHT-CLUBS, etc.: *a holiday resort with good nightlife*

night-light /'naɪtlaɪt/ *n* a not very bright light or small candle which is kept burning through the night, e.g. in a child's room

night-long /'naɪtlɒŋ/ -lɒŋ/ *adj, adv esp. lit* (lasting) through the whole night: *a nightlong vigil*

night-ly /'naɪtli/ *adj, adv* (happening, done, etc.) every night: *a play performed nightly* | *a nightly news broadcast*

night-mare /'naɪtmeə/ *n* 1 a terrible dream 2 a terrible experience or event: *the nightmare of a nuclear war* | *Driving on that ice was a real nightmare.* —**marish** *adj* —**marishly** *adv* —**marishness** *n* [U]

nightmare sce-na-ri-o /'nʌɪtmeə,riə/ *n* a description of a possible situation or course of action which would be terrible if it happened: *Citizens living near the proposed waste site fear the nightmare scenario of a radiation leak.*

night owl /'nʌɪt,əʊl/ also **nighthawk** *AmE*— *n infml* a person who likes to stay awake most of the night to read, work, go out, etc.

nights /naɪts/ *adv esp. AmE* at night repeatedly; during any night: *He works nights.* | *I lie awake nights.*

night safe /'nʌɪt,seɪf/ *BrE* || **night depository** *AmE*— *n* a special opening in the outside wall of a bank in which a customer can put money, etc. when the bank is closed

night school /'nʌɪt,skuːl/ *n* [U] a school or set of classes meeting in the evening, esp. for people who have jobs during the day: *She wants to learn French at night school.* (*AmE*) *in night school.*

night-shade /'naɪtʃeɪd/ *n* see DEADLY NIGHTSHADE

night shift /'nʌɪt,ʃɪft/ *n* 1 [C] a period of time beginning at night and ending in the morning, during which people regularly work in a factory, hospital, or other place of work: *to work (on) the night shift* 2 [*the+sing./pl. v*] this group of workers: *The night shift is/are just coming off duty.* —see also SHIFT² (2)

night-shirt /'naɪt,ʃɜːt/ -ʃɜːrt/ *n* a piece of men's clothing like a long loose shirt, made to be worn in bed —compare NIGHTDRESS

night soil /'nʌɪt,soɪl/ *n* [U] *euph* waste matter from the human bowels which is collected and used for growing crops

night-stand /'naɪtstænd/ also **night ta-ble** /'nʌɪt,teɪbəl/ *n AmE* a small table beside a bed

night-stick /'naɪt,stɪk/ *n AmE* for TRUNCHEON

night-time /'naɪt,tʌɪm/ *n* [(*the*) U] the time when it is dark;

NIGHT: *animals that hunt in the nighttime* —opposite daytime

night watch /'nʌɪt,wɒtʃ/ *n* WATCH² (5)

night watch-man /'nʌɪt,wɒtʃ,mən/ *n* 1 a man with the job of guarding a building at night 2 (in cricket) one of the less good batsmen (BATSMAN) in a team who is sent to BAT at the end of a day's play so that the better batsmen do not need to face the BOWLING until the next day

night-wear /'naɪtweə/ *n* [U] clothes worn in bed at night

nig-nog /'nɪɡnɒɡ/ -nɔːɡ/ *n BrE, taboo derog* a black person (considered extremely offensive)

ni-hil-is-m /'naɪlɪzəm/ *n* [U] 1 the belief that nothing has meaning or value 2 the belief that social and political organization should be destroyed, even if nothing better can take its place —**ist** *n* —**istic** /,naɪlɪ'stɪk/ *adj*

Ni-jin-sky /nɪ'dʒɪnski/, **Vas-lav** /'vɑːslɑːf/ (1890–1950) a Russian BALLET dancer known for his powerful but graceful movement and his use of free expression

Niké /naɪk, 'naɪki/ *tdmk* an American company which makes sports clothes and shoes which have become very fashionable

Nik-kei in-dex /,nɪkeɪ 'ɪndeks/ also **Nikkei**— [*the*] an INDEX (=a system for comparing levels) of the prices of some typical shares (SHARE¹ (2)) on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, operated by a Japanese financial newspaper

Ni-kon /'nɪkɒn/ || -ɑːn/ a camera made by the Japanese company Nikon

nil /nɪl/ *n* [U] nothing; zero: *The new machine reduced labour costs to almost nil.* | (*BrE*) *Our team won by four goals to nil.* —see ZERO (USAGE)

Nile /naɪl/ [*the*] a river in NE Africa, the longest in the world, which has supported most of the farming in Egypt, and also Sudan, since the early Egyptian civilization began there in about 4000 BC —see picture at DELTA

Ni-lot-ic /naɪ'lɒtɪk/ -'lɑː-/ *adj tech* of the River Nile, the peoples living around it, or their languages

nim-ble /'nɪmbəl/ *adj apprec* 1 quick, light, and neat in movement; AGILE: *a nimble climber* 2 quick in thinking or understanding: *a nimble mind/imagination* —**bly** *adv* —**ness** *n* [U]

nim-bus /'nɪmbəs/ *n* -buses or -bi /baɪ/ 1 [U] a dark spreading cloud that may bring rain or snow —compare CIRRUS, CUMULUS 2 [C] a HALO

nim-by /'nɪmbi/ *n sometimes all caps.* a person who does not want a particular building or activity to be carried out near their own house, but to be put somewhere else (from the first letters of the words “not in my back yard”) —**nimby** *adj*: *a nimby attitude* —**ism** *n*

Nim-mo /'nɪməʊ/, **Derek** (1933–) an English actor known for playing funny parts esp. priests

Ni-ña /'nɪznə/ [*the*] one of the three ships which sailed to America with Christopher Columbus in 1492 —see also PINTA, SANTA MARIA

nin-com-poop /'nɪŋkəmpuːp/ *n old-fash infml* a stupid person; fool

nine /naɪn/ *determiner, n, pron* 1 (the number) 9 —see TABLE 1 2 **nine times out of ten** *infml* almost always —see also CLOUD NINE, **dressed up to the nines** (DRESS¹ (10))

nine days' won-der /'naɪn,deɪz,wɒndə/ *n* a thing or event that causes excitement for a short time and then is forgotten

911 /,naɪn wʌn 'wʌn/ the telephone number used in the US to call the fire or police department or for an AMBULANCE in an EMERGENCY: *Call 911! The house is on fire!*

999 /,naɪn naɪn 'naɪn/ the telephone number used in Britain to telephone the fire, police, or AMBULANCE services in an EMERGENCY: *Quick, dial 999* | *a 999 call*

Nine O'Clock News /'naɪn,ə'klɒk,nuːz/ [*the*] a British television news programme broadcast on BBC1 at 9 p.m. each weekday —compare NEWS AT TEN

nine-pins /'naɪn,pɪnz/ *n* [U] an early form of the game of BOWLING using nine instead of ten bottle-shaped objects (**ninepins**) —**ninepin** *adj* [A]: *a ninepin alley* (=place for playing the game)

nine-teen /,naɪn'tiːn/ *determiner, n, pron* 1 (the number) 19 —see TABLE 1 2 **nineteen to the dozen** *infml* (speaking) quickly and continually, never stopping: *They were*

chatting away nineteen to the dozen. — ~ **th** *determiner, n, pron, adv*

Nineteen Eighty-Four /ˌniːntiən ˌeɪtɪ ˌfɔː/ a book written by George Orwell in 1948, which looked into the future and imagined Britain in the year 1984 as a place where the government controls everyone's lives completely and watches what everyone is doing all the time. The title of the book, or the date "1984", are sometimes used to describe a society which is like this in some way. —see also BIG BROTHER, NEWSPEAK

nineteenth hole /ˌniːntiən ˌhəʊl/ [*the*] *humor* a place where people playing GOLF can relax and have a drink after a game; the club bar

1922 Com-mit-tee /ˌnaɪntiːn ˌtwenti ˈtuː kəˌmɪti/ [*the*] the group of British Conservative members of parliament who are not ministers (BACKBENCHERS)

nine-ties /ˌnaɪntiːz/ *n* [P] **1** [*the*] also '90s the 1990s (=the years from 1990 to 1999): *in the early nineties* | *the car for the nineties* **2** *in his/her/their nineties* aged from 90 to 99: *my grandparents are both in their nineties* **3** [*the*] the numbers from 90 to 99, esp. when used to measure temperature: *another hot day, with temperatures expected to reach the nineties.*

nine-to-five /ˌniːn ˌtuː ˌfaɪv/ *adj, adv* from nine o'clock in the morning until five o'clock in the evening, the typical working hours of an office worker: *a nine-to-five job* | *to work nine-to-five*

nine-ty /ˌnaɪnti/ *determiner, n, pron* (the number) 90 —see TABLE 1 —**tieth** /ˌnaɪntiəθ/ *determiner, n, pron, adv*

ninety-nine /ˌniːnti ˌnaɪn/ *determiner, n, pron* **1** (the number) 99 —see TABLE 1 **2** *ninety-nine times out of a hundred* *infml* almost always

Nin-e-veh /ˌniːn ˌvə/ the capital of the ancient Assyrian EMPIRE, on the east bank of the river Tigris, in what is now Iraq. The remains of very fine buildings have been found buried there.

nin-ja /ˌniːndʒə/ *n* (a member of) a Japanese class of professional killers, in former times. Toys and computer games involving Ninja warriors were popular in the early 1990s. Ninjas are always shown in dark clothes with a scarf covering the face and have special fighting skills. —see also TEENAGE MUTANT HERO TURTLES: *ninja warriors*

nin-ny /ˌniːni/ *n infml* a silly foolish person

Nin-ten-do /ˌniːn ˌtendəʊ/ *tdmk* a computer games machine made by the Japanese company Nintendo, esp. a small one that can be held in the hand

ninth /naɪnθ/ *determiner, adv, n, pron* 9th —see TABLE 1

nip¹ /nɪp/ *v -pp-* **1** [I (at); T] to catch in a tight sharp hold between two points or surfaces: *The little dog nipped my ankles* (=bit them) | *nipped at my ankles*. | (=tried to bite them) | *I nipped my finger in the door*. | *to nip off* (=cut off) *the corner of the page with scissors* **2** [I+prep] *BrE infml* to go quickly or for a short time: *I'll nip out and buy a newspaper*. | *She won't be long — she's just nipped down to the shops*. **3** [T] *fml* to stop the growth of (plants): *The frost has nipped the fruit trees*. **4** **nip (something) in the bud** to stop (something) before it has properly started: *Her plans to go to bed with a book were nipped in the bud when visitors arrived unexpectedly.*

nip in *phr v* [I] *BrE infml* to move quickly sideways in traffic or in a race: *I had to stop when another car nipped in in front of me.*

nip² *n* [S] **1** a coldness: *There's a nip in the air today: winter's coming*. **2** the act or result of nipping; PINCH: *I gave my fingers a nasty nip in the door.*

nip³ *n* [(of)] *infml* a small amount of a strong alcoholic drink, (not beer or wine): *a nip of whisky*

nip and tuck /ˌniːp ˌən ˌtʌk/ *adv, adj AmE infml* **1** (of two or more competing things) nearly equal: *nip and tuck in the last lap of the race* **2** (of a situation) having barely what is needed to get a result: *I might make it to New York in this old beater, but it's going to be nip and tuck.*

nip-per /ˌnɪpə/ *n infml, esp. BrE* a child, esp. a small boy

nip-pers /ˌnɪpəz/ [-ərz/ *n* [P] any of various tools like PLIERS —see PAIR (USAGE)

nip-ple /ˌnɪpəl/ *n* **1** *a* the dark part of a woman's breast, through which a baby can suck milk *b* the dark part of a man's chest —compare TEAT **2** *AmE* the piece of rubber shaped like this on the end of a baby's bottle; TEAT

(1) **3** a small opening shaped like this on a machine, for oil or GREASE

nip-py /ˌnɪpi/ *adj* **1** (of weather) cold; CHILLY: *a nippy winter morning* **2** quick in movement: *You'll have to be nippy if you want to catch the bus.* —**piness** *n* [U]

Ni-rex /ˌnaɪəreks/ see UK NIREX

nir-va-na /ˌniːəˈvɑːnə, ˌniːr-||ˌniːr-, ˌniːr-/ *n* [U] (*sometimes cap.*) (in Buddhism and Hinduism) ENLIGHTENMENT (2); a state of knowledge or understanding reached while meditating (MEDITATE) which is beyond life and death, suffering and change, and is the aim of all believers in these religions

nisi see DECREE NISI

Nis-san /ˌnɪsæn||-sæn/ a car or other vehicle made by the Japanese company Nissan

Nis-sen hut /ˌnɪsən ˌhʌt/ *n* (in Britain) a shelter whose roof and side walls are made in one round piece from iron sheets —compare QUONSET HUT

nit¹ /nɪt/ *n* an egg of an insect (usu. a LOUSE) that is sometimes found in people's hair

nit² *n BrE derog infml* a NITWIT

nit-pick-ing /ˌnɪtˌpɪkɪŋ/ *n* [U] *infml derog* the habit of paying too much attention to small and unimportant points or faults —**nitpicking** *adj* —**nitpicker** *n*

ni-trate /ˌnaɪtreɪt, -trɪt/ *n* [C;U] any of several chemicals used mainly as FERTILIZER in improving soil for growing crops

ni-tre *BrE* || **niter** *AmE* /ˌnaɪtə/ *n* [U] any of certain nitrates, including SALTPETRE, esp. as substances found in nature

ni-tric ac-id /ˌnaɪtrɪk ˈæsɪd/ *n* [U] a powerful acid (HNO₃) which eats away other substances and is used in explosives and other chemical products

ni-tro-gen /ˌnaɪtrədʒən/ *n* [U] a gas that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), without colour or smell, that forms most of the Earth's air

nitrogen ox-ides /ˌniːtrədʒən ˈɒksɪd/ *n* [P] compounds of nitrogen and oxygen which are produced by the process of burning and are POLLUTANTS (=substances which are harmful to the environment)

ni-tro-gly-ce-rine, **-rɪn** /ˌnaɪtrəʊˈglɪsərɪn, -trə-, -rɪn||-rɪn/ *n* [U] a powerful liquid explosive —see also DYNAMITE

nit-ty-grit-ty /ˌnɪti ˈgrɪti/ *n* **get down to/come to the nitty-gritty** *sl* to deal with the difficult and practical part of a situation, e.g. when making an agreement or a decision: *Let's get down to the nitty-gritty: exactly how much do you intend to pay me for this?* —*adj*: *nitty-gritty details*

nit-wit /ˌnɪt-wɪt/ *n infml* a silly foolish person: *Open it, you nitwit!*

Niv-e-a /ˌnɪviə/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a range of skin care products made by Smith and Nephew

Niv-en /ˌnɪvən/, **David** (1909–83) a British actor who appeared in many films, including *The Guns of Navarone*, and is known esp. for playing a particular sort of ELEGANT English gentleman. He also wrote two books about his life, containing many humorous stories about other famous people.

nix¹ /nɪks/ *adv AmE infml* no: *Dad said nix to our plan.*

nix² *v* [T] *AmE infml* (esp. in newspapers) to answer no to; forbid; REJECT: *The city nixed the plan.*

Nix-on /ˌnɪksən/, **Richard** (1913–) an American Republican politician who was president from 1969 to 1974, responsible for American soldiers leaving Vietnam, and for improving the country's relationship with China. He is now remembered esp. for his part in the Watergate affair which caused his downfall. —see also WATERGATE

NJ *written abbrev. for*: NEW JERSEY

N-ko-mo /əŋˈkəʊməʊ/, **Joshua** (1917–) a Zimbabwean politician, leader of the black nationalist movement against the white Rhodesian government of Ian Smith, and an important minister in the Zimbabwean government after independence

N-kru-mah /əŋˈkru:mə/, **Kwa-me** /ˈkwɑːmi/ (1909–72) a Ghanaian politician, Prime Minister from 1952–60 (before and after independence) and President from 1960–66; a believer in African unity and SOCIALISM. Many people regarded him as a DICTATOR and he was removed from power by the army.

NLRB /,en el a: 'bi:z/-a:r-/ *n* abbrev. for: National Labor Relations Board

NM written abbrev. for: NEW MEXICO

NME /,en em 'i:z/ abbrev. for: NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

no¹ /nəʊ/ *adv* **1** (used as an answer expressing refusal or disagreement): "Have you finished yet?" "No, I haven't." | "Is it raining?" "No, it's snowing." | "Will you post this letter for me?" "No, it's too cold to go out." —opposite **yes** **2** not any: *I'm feeling no worse* (=feeling the same or better) *than yesterday*. | *There were no fewer than* (=at least) *150 people at the party*. | *They no longer live here*. —compare **NOT** (1); see **MORE (USAGE)** **3** often *pomp* (used before an adjective to give the opposite meaning): *She had no small part* (=had a large part) *in its success*. | *a question of no great importance* (=of little importance) | *for no particular reason* | "Did you have good weather?" "No such luck; it rained the whole time." **4** (used for expressing great surprise): "I bought this bicycle for £5." "No!" **5** *BrE nonstandard* or **no** or **not**: *You'll have to do it, whether or no you want to*. | *Like it or no, you'll have to do it*.

no² *determiner* **1** not a; not one; not any: *no sugar in the bowl* | *no telephone in our house* | *no buses in this part of town* | *You can't lie to me; I'm no fool!* | *Her refusal came as no surprise*. (=I expected it) —see **SOME (USAGE)**; **NO WAY** **2** (used in warnings and road signs to express what is not allowed): *No smoking* | *No parking* **3** *infml* very little; hardly any: *We're almost home; we'll be there in no time*. (=very soon) | *It's no distance at all to the school, only a short walk*. **4** *infml* **there's no knowing/saying/telling, etc.** it's not possible to know/say/tell, etc.: *He's such a strange person: there's no knowing what he'll do next*.

▷ **USAGE** 1 Compare **no** and **not**. You can use **no** where the meaning is "not any": **no money** | **no smoking** | **no thick shoes** | **no faster** | **no good**. Otherwise use **not**: **not a chance** | **not all of us** | **not enough** | **not often** | **not on Sunday** | *I'm not coming*. | *She's not stupid*. **2** When answering questions remember that your choice of "yes" or "no" depends on whether what you are going to say is positive or negative and not on whether or not you agree with the speaker: "She's not very clever." "No, she isn't." (=you are right, she isn't). "Yes, she is." (=you are wrong, she is clever). ◁

no³ *n* **noes** **1** [*usu. sing.*] an answer or decision of no: *a clear no to my request for money* —opposite **yes** **2** [*usu. pl.*] a vote or voter against a question to be decided, esp. in a parliament —opposite **aye**

No, Noh /nəʊ/ *n* [U] a type of traditional Japanese **DRAMA** (2), which involves music and dance, and is based on religious or old stories

no. nos. written abbrev. for: **NUMBER**¹ (2)

No. 10 Number Ten /,nambə 'ten || -bər-/ No. 10 Downing Street; the address of the official home of the British Prime Minister; also used to mean the views held by the Prime Minister: *This suggestion won't be welcomed at No. 10*. | *sources close to Number 10* —see colour picture on page 950

No. 11 Number Eleven /,nambər ɪ 'levən/ No. 11 Downing Street; the address of the official home of the British Chancellor of the Exchequer

no-ac-count /'nəʊ.ə.kəʊnt/ also **no-count** — *n, adj* [A] *AmE dial derog* (a person who is) completely worthless: *his no-count, good-for-nothing nephew*

No-ah /'nəʊə/ in the Bible, the man chosen by God to build an **ARK** (a very large boat) in which he saved his family and two of every kind of animal from a terrible flood which covered the Earth. There are many songs and stories about **Noah's ark**, and the images from it (esp. the animals being chosen, and going into the ark "two by two") are very well known even by children. —see also **FLOOD**

No. 10 Downing Street



Noah, Yan-nick /'jænik/ (1960–) a popular French tennis player known esp. for his exciting play and his **DREADLOCKS**

nob /nɒb||nɑ:b/ *n infml derog or humor, esp. BrE* a rich person with a high social position: *The nobs live in the big houses on the hill*.

no ball /'nəʊ. bɔ:l/ *n* (in cricket and other similar games) an act of bowling (**BOWL**² (1b)) the ball in a way that is not allowed by the rules

nob-ble /'nɒbəl||'nɑ:z/ *v* [T] *BrE sl* **1** to prevent (a race-horse) from winning, esp. by giving it drugs: *They nobbled the favourite*. **2** to get the attention of (someone), esp. in order to persuade or ask for a favour: *I nobbled him at the party and told him about the book I was writing*. **3** to get dishonestly: *He nobbled the free ticket for himself*.

No-bel /nəʊ'bel/, **Al-fred** /'ælfred/ (1833–96) a Swedish engineer and **CHEMIST** who invented **DYNAMITE**. He is known for establishing the Nobel prizes, for which purpose he left his large fortune made from selling explosives.

No-bel prize /nəʊ'bel 'praɪz, ,nəʊbel-/ *n* any of several prizes given in Sweden each year to people from any country for important work in science, medicine, economics and literature and towards world peace

no-bil-i-ty /nəʊ'bɪlɪti, nə-/ *n* **1** [*the+sing./pl. v*] the group of people in certain countries who are of the highest social class and have titles such as (in Britain) **DUKE** and **EARL**; the **ARISTOCRACY**: *Most of the nobility fled during the revolution*. **2** [U] also **no-ble-ness** /'nəʊbəlɪnəs/ — the quality of being noble in character or appearance

no-ble¹ /'nəʊbəl/ *adj* **1** deserving praise and admiration because of unselfishness and high moral quality: *noble and generous feelings* | *It was very noble of you to look after your old neighbour when she was sick*. | *fighting for a noble cause* —opposite **ignoble** **2** admirable in appearance; grand; **IMPRESSIVE**: *this noble monument to our war heroes* **3** of or belonging to the nobility: *a noble family* | *a man of noble birth* **4** [*no comp.*] (of metals like gold and silver) not chemically changed by air —compare **BASE METAL**; see also **NOBLY** **5** **this was the noblest Roman of them all** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*, said by Mark Antony about Brutus

noble² *n* [*usu. pl.*] (esp. in **FEUDAL** times) a person of the highest and most powerful social class outside the royal family —compare **COMMONER**

no-ble-man /'nəʊbəl mən/ **no-ble-wom-an** /-,wʊmən/fem. — *n* **-men** /mən/ a member of the nobility; **PEER**

noble sav-age /,nəʊ. 'sæv. ədʒ/ [*the*] a person who is uneducated but has a lot of natural good qualities. The idea of the noble savage was invented by the French writer and thinker, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who believed that people were naturally good and kind, but were corrupted (**CORRUPT**) by society, which taught them to be evil.

no-blesse o-blige /nəʊ'bles ə'blɪz/ *n* [U] the principle that people with high social class, money, good education, etc., should use these advantages to help people who do not have them

no-bly /'nəʊbli/ *adv* **1** in a noble way, esp. generously and unselfishly: *She nobly did my work as well as hers while I was ill*. **2** with a noble rank (in the phrase **nobly born**)

no-bod-y¹ /'nəʊbədɪ||-,bɑ:di, -bədi/ *pron* no person; **NO ONE**: *I knocked on the door but nobody answered*. —see also **like nobody's business** (**BUSINESS** (10)); see **EVERYONE (USAGE)**, **SOMETHING (USAGE)**

nobody² *n* a person of no importance or influence: *I want to be famous — I'm tired of being a nobody!*

no-claims bo-nus /'nəʊ. kləɪmz bə'nʊs/ *n* a reduction in the regular payments made to an insurance company (esp. for motor vehicles), given to someone who has not made any claims within a particular period

no con-test /,nəʊ. kən'test/ see **NOLO CONTENDERE**

no-count /'nəʊ. kaʊnt/ see **NO-ACCOUNT**

noc-tur-nal /nɒk'tʃ:nl||nɑ:k'tʃ:r-/ *adj fml or tech* of, happening, or active at night: *a nocturnal visit* | *nocturnal creatures such as owls and badgers* — **~ly adv**

noc-turne /'nɒktʃ:n||'nɑ:ktʃ:rn/ *n* a piece of music related to the night, esp. a soft beautiful piece of piano music

nod¹ /nɒd||nɑ:d/ *v* **-dd-** **1** [I;T] to bend (one's head) forward and down, esp. to show agreement or give a greeting or

sign: *She nodded (her head) when she passed me in the street.* | *I asked her if she was ready to go, and she nodded.* | *The committee members nodded in agreement with him.* | (fig.) *flowers nodding in the wind* — compare **shake one's head** (SHAKE¹) **2** [T] to show in this way: *They nodded their agreement.*

nod off *phr v* [I] to fall asleep, esp. unintentionally, letting one's head drop: *I nodded off in my chair and missed the end of the film.*

nod² *n* **1** [*usu. sing.*] an act of nodding: *She greeted us with a nod (of the head).* | *He gave a slight nod.* **2** approval: *The governor gave the new bill a nod on Thursday.* **3** a **nod's as good as a wink** *infml*, often humor (used to show that the speaker understands a situation without needing a full explanation) **4 on the nod** *BrE infml* (approved or accepted) by general agreement and without being talked about: *The chairman's proposals are usually passed on the nod at the shareholders' meetings.*

no-dal /'nəʊdl/ *adj fml* of or near one or more nodes

nod-ding ac-quaint-ance /,nɒdɪŋ ə'kwaɪntəns/ *n* [S (with)] a very slight familiarity with a person or subject: *She and I have a nodding acquaintance.*

nod-dle /'nɒdl/ *n* *old-fash sl* a person's head or brain

Nod-dy /'nɒdi/ *n* a character in many children's books by the English writer Enid Blyton. He wears a little blue cap with a bell on the top, and drives a yellow and red car around Toytown, with his friend Big Ears.

node /nəʊd/ *n* **1** *tech* a place where branches or parts of a system or network meet or join **2** a swelling or roundish lump, as on a tree trunk or a person's body

nod-ule /'nɒdjʊl/ *n* a small round mass or lump, esp. a small round swelling on a plant or a person's body — **ular** /'nɒdjʊlə/ *adj*

No-el /nəʊ'el/ *n* [U] *poet* (the season of) Christmas: *the first Noel*

noes /nəʊz/ *pl. of NO*³

no-fault /'nɒfɔːlt/ *adj tech, esp AmE* of a point of view in which the determination of blame or responsibility is not important: *no-fault insurance laws* | *a no-fault divorce case*

no-fly zone /'nɒflaɪ zəʊn/ *n* an AIR EXCLUSION ZONE

nog-gin /'nɒɡɪn/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** *sl* a person's head or brain: *Think! Use your noggin!* **2** *BrE* a small amount (*usu.* a GILL) of an alcoholic drink

no-go ar-e-a /'nɒɡoʊ ə'reɪə/ *n infml, esp. BrE* an area, esp. in a city, controlled by one of two opposed groups and dangerous for anyone else to enter: *Since the invasion the southern part of the town has become a no-go area.*

Noh /nəʊ/ *n* [U] see NO

no-hit-ter /'nɒhɪtə/ *n* (in BASEBALL) a game in which the PITCHER² does not allow anyone on the opposing team to hit the ball successfully: *Cy Young was the first pitcher ever to throw a no-hitter.*

no-how /'nəʊhaʊ/ *adv nonstandard or humor* in no way; not at all

noise¹ /nɔɪz/ *n* **1** [C;U] sound, esp. (an) unwanted or meaningless unmusical sound: *I heard a noise outside.* | *Try not to make a noise when you go upstairs; the baby's asleep.* | *There's so much noise in this restaurant I can hardly hear you talking.* | *What's wrong with the car? The engine's making funny noises.* **2** [U] *tech* a unwanted signals produced by an electrical CIRCUIT **b** meaningless information produced by a computer **3** **make noises** *infml* to express feelings or intentions of the stated kind: *My teacher made encouraging noises when I said I wanted to go to university.* — see also BIG NOISE — **~less** *adj* — **~lessly** *adv* — **~lessness** *n* [U]

▷ USAGE Compare **sound**, **voice**, and **noise**. A **sound** is anything that you hear: the **sound of voices/of music/of breaking glass**. A **voice** is the sound of a person speaking or singing: *She has a loud/high/charming voice.* | *a song for male voices*. A **noise** is usually a loud, unpleasant **sound**: *Stop making so much noise!*

noise² *v esp. BrE*

noise sthg. **about/abroad/around** *phr v* [T often pass.] to make public (a piece of news that is perhaps untrue): *Rumours of an election are being noised abroad.* | *It's being noised around that the factory is going to close.*

noise pol-lu-tion /'nɔɪzə'leɪʃən/ *n* [U] (the making of) a very loud

noise which is unpleasant to people near it and which is viewed as a type of POLLUTION: *People living opposite the factory complained that it was a source of noise pollution.*

noi-sette /nwaɪ'zet/ *n often pl.* a small round boneless piece of usu. lamb meat: *noisettes of lamb*

noi-some /'nɔɪsəm/ *adj esp. lit* very unpleasant (esp. of a smell)

nois-y /'nɔɪzi/ *adj* full of noise; making a lot of noise: *a noisy car* | *It's very noisy in this office.* — **~ily** *adv* — **~iness** *n* [U]

no-lo con-ten-de-re /,nəʊləʊ kɒn'tendəri/ — kən'tendəri/ also **no contest** *infml adv, adj, n Lat* (in US law) (of) a PLEA in a court case that means the person being tried does not admit guilt, but also does not defend himself: *The former governor was convicted after a nolo contendere plea on charges of corruption.* | *She pleaded nolo contendere to the homicide charge.*

no-mad /'nəʊmæd/ *n* a member of a tribe which travels from place to place, esp. to find grass for its animals: *the nomads of the desert* — **~ic** /nəʊ'mædɪk/ *adj*: *a nomadic people*

no-man's-land /'nɒmən'slənd/ *n* [S;U] an area of land which no one owns or controls, esp. between two borders or two opposing armies: *He was shot crossing no-man's-land.*

nom de plume /,nɒm də 'plu:m/ — nɑ:m-/ *n* **noms de plume** (same pronunciation) a PEN NAME

no-men-cla-ture /nəʊ'menklətʃə/ — 'nəʊmənkleɪ-/ *n tech* [C;U] a system of naming things, esp. in science: *medical nomenclature* | *the nomenclature of chemical compounds*

nom-i-nal /'nɒmɪnəl/ — nɑ:-/ *adj* **1** in name or form but usu. not in reality: *The old man is only the nominal head of the business: his daughter makes all the decisions.* | *His position as chairman is purely nominal.* **2** (of an amount of money) very small; NEGLIGIBLE: *sold for a nominal sum* (=a price far below the real value) **3** *tech* (in grammar) of or used as a noun: *a nominal phrase* | *nominal endings such as “-ness” and “-ation”.* — **~ly** *adv*: *He is nominally the head of the firm.*

nom-i-nate /'nɒmɪneɪt/ — nɑ:-/ *v* [T] **1** [(for, as)] to suggest or name (someone) officially for a position, office, duty, honour, etc.: *I wish to nominate Jane Morrison for/as president of the club.* [+obj+to-v] *I nominate John to represent us at the meeting.* **2** [(as)] to appoint (someone) to such a position, office, etc., without election: *The director nominated me as his official representative at the conference.*

nom-i-na-tion /,nɒmɪ'neɪʃən/ — nɑ:-/ *n* [C;U (for, as)] the act of nominating or a case of being nominated: *The club agreed to all the committee's nominations.* | *Who will get the Republican nomination for president?* | *His nomination as chief executive was approved/rejected by the board.*

nom-i-na-tive /'nɒmɪnətɪv, 'nɒmnə-/ — nɑ:-/ *n tech* a particular form of a noun in certain languages, such as Latin, Greek, and German, which shows that the noun is the subject of a verb — **nominative** *adj*

nom-i-nee /,nɒmɪ'ni:/ — nɑ:-/ *n* a person who has been nominated

non- see WORD FORMATION

no-na-ge-nar-ian /,nəʊnədʒɪ'neəriən/ *n* a person who is between 90 and 99 years old

non-ag-gres-sion /,nɒn-ə'ɡresʃən/ — nɑ:n-/ *n* [U] the avoidance of fighting, esp. between countries: *a nonaggression pact* (=with each side promising not to attack the other)

non-a-ligned /,nɒn-ə'laɪnd/ — nɑ:n-/ *adj* (of a country) not dependent on or supporting any particular one of the world powers — **~lignment** *n* [U]

non-bi-o-lo-gi-cal /,nɒn'biɒlədʒɪkəl/ *adj* (of a cleaning product) not containing ENZYMES or other products made by living cells

nonce¹ /nɒns/ — nɑ:ns/ *adj* [A] *tech* (esp. of a word or phrase) invented for a particular occasion only

nonce² *n* *lit or humor* for the nonce for the present time; for this occasion

non-cha-lant /'nɒnʃələnt/ — nɑ:nʃə'lɑ:nt/ *adj* showing calmness, lack of anxiety, and often lack of interest; UNCONCERNED; COOL: *a nonchalant attitude to his debts* — **~lance** *n* [U]: *She received the prize with an air of nonchalance.* — **~ly** *adv*

non-com-ba-tant /,nɒn'kɒmbətənt||,nɑːnkəm'bætənt/ *n* a person, esp. in the armed forces (such as a CHAPLAIN or doctor), who does not take part in actual fighting: *He served in the war as a noncombatant.* | *noncombatant duty*

non-com-mis-sioned of-fi-cer /,nɒnkə,mɪʃənd 'ɒfɪsə/||,nɑːn-; -'ɔːf-, -'ɑːf-/ also **non-com** /,nɒn'kɒm||,nɑːn'kaɪm/ *esp. AmE*— *n* see NCO

non-com-mit-tal /,nɒnkə'mɪtl̩||,nɑːn-/ *adj* not expressing (or refusing to express) a clear opinion or intention: *I asked him to vote for me but he was noncommittal.* —see also COMMIT (2) — *~ly adv*: *She answered noncommittally.*

non com-pos men-tis /,nɒn ,kɒmpəs 'mentɪs||,nɑːn ,kaɪm-/ *adj* [F] *Lat, law or humor* unable to think clearly or be responsible for one's actions: *The court judged him to have been non compos mentis when he committed the murder.* —opposite **compos mentis**

non-con-duc-tor /,nɒnkən'dʌktə/||,nɑːn-/ *n* a substance which allows little or no sound, heat, or esp. electricity to pass through it —compare INSULATOR

non-con-form-ist /,nɒnkən'fɔːmɪst̩||,nɑːnkən'fɔːr-/ *adj, n* (of or being) a person who does not follow generally accepted way(s) of living, thinking, etc.: *a political nonconformist* | *nonconformist attitudes* —*ity, -ism n* [U]

Nonconformist *adj, n* (a member) of any of several Christian religious groups which have separated from the Church of England: *a Nonconformist minister/chapel* —*ity n* [U]

non-con-trib-u-to-ry /,nɒnkən'trɪbjʊtəri/||,nɑːnkən'trɪbjʊtəri/ *adj* (of a PENSION or insurance plan) paid for by the employer only and not by the worker —opposite **contributory**

non-cus-to-di-al /,nɒnkə'stəʊdiəl/||,nɑːn-/ *adj* **1** (of a person) who does not have legal CUSTODY of his or her children: *child support obligations of noncustodial parents* **2** (of a form of punishment) which does not involve being kept in prison or some other institution: *She was given a noncustodial sentence for the crime in light of her previous clean record.*

non-dai-ry /,nɒn'daɪri/ *adj* not containing milk or milk products: *a new non-dairy dessert topping*

non-de-script /'nɒndɪ'skript||,nɑːndɪ'skript/ *adj* without any noticeable or interesting qualities; very ordinary-looking; not DISTINCTIVE: *Her clothes were so nondescript I can't remember what she was wearing.*

non-dis-crim-i-na-tion /,nɒn'dɪskrɪ'mɪnəʃən||,nɑːn'dɪskrɪ'mɪnəʃən/ *n* [U] the action of not discriminating against (=not treating unfairly) particular groups of people, esp. when done by a public organization in order to be fair to people who may be at a disadvantage in society: *The council has a policy of non-discrimination.* —*tory adj*

none¹ /nʌn/ *pron* [(of)] **1** not any; no amount or part: *"Have you any money?" "No, none at all/none whatever."* | *She had none of her mother's beauty.* | *I'm afraid we can't have coffee; there's none left.* | *None of your foolishness, please!* (=Stop being foolish.) **2** not any of a group of more than two: *None of my friends* (=I have more than two) *ever come(s) to see me.* | *None of the telephones is/are working.* | *None of their promises have been kept.* —compare NEITHER¹ **3** not any one: *Even an old car is better than none at all.* **4** have none of *fml* to take no part in; not accept: *He was offered a job in a weapons factory but he said he would have none of it.* **5** none but *often lit only*: *None but the best ingredients are used in our products.* **6** none other (than) (shows surprise) no one else (but): *The mystery guest on the show was none other than Prince Charles!* —see also NONETHELESS, **second to none** (SECOND¹), **bar none** (BAR³)

▷ **USAGE** When **none of** is followed by a plural noun, it usually takes a plural verb in ordinary speech: **None of us are ready yet.** But in formal writing a singular verb is used: **None of our factories is in operation yet.** —see also EITHER² (USAGE)◀

none² *adv* **1** none the (used before a comparative) not; in no way: *He explained it to me, but I'm none the wiser.* (=I still don't understand it) | *My car is none the worse for* (=is no worse because of) *the accident.* **2** none too not very: *The service in this restaurant is none too fast and the food is none too good, either.*

non-en-ti-ty /nɒ'nentɪti||nɑː-/ *n* *derog* a person without

much ability, character, or importance: *a weak government, full of complete nonentities*

none-such /'nʌnsʌtʃ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *lit* a NONPAREIL (1)

none-the-less /,nʌndə'les/ *adv* in spite of that; NEVERTHELESS

non-e-vent /,nɒn'evnt/ *n* *informal* an event that is much less important, interesting, etc., than expected: *The demonstration was a bit of a non-event; only a few people turned up.* —compare MEDIA EVENT

non-ex-ec-u-tive di-rec-tor /,nɒn'ekʊtɪv dɪ'rektə/||,nɒn'ekʊtɪv dɪ'rektə/ *n* a person who sits on the BOARD¹ (4) of directors of a company and gives advice but who does not have responsibility for how the company is run

non-ex-ist-ent /,nɒnɪg'zɪstənt/||,nɑːn-/ *adj* not existing: *Their government is bankrupt, and public services are now practically nonexistent.*

non-fic-tion /,nɒn'fɪkʃən||,nɑːn-/ *n* [U] writing that is about real facts or events rather than imagined things; not poetry, plays, stories, or NOVELS —compare FICTION

non-fi-nite /,nɒn'faɪt/ *adj* **1** not FINITE; having no end or limit **2** *tech* (of a verb form) not marked to show a particular tense or subject: *"Being" and "been" are non-finite forms of the verb "to be", but "am" and "was" are finite.*

non-flam-ma-ble /,nɒn'flæməbəl||,nɑːn-/ also **non-in-flam-ma-ble** /,nɒnɪn'flæməbəl||,nɑːn-/ *adj* difficult or impossible to set on fire or burn: *The firemen's uniforms are made of nonflammable material.* —opposite **inflammable**; see FLAMMABLE (USAGE)

non-in-ter-ven-tion /,nɒnɪntə'venfən||,nɑːnɪntər-/ also **non-in-ter-fer-ence** /,nɒnɪntə'fɪərəns||,nɑːnɪntər-/ *n* [U] the practice, esp. by a government, of not taking part in or trying to influence the affairs or disagreements of other people, countries, etc.: *a nonintervention policy* | *a policy of nonintervention* —see also INTERVENE

non-i-ron /,nɒn'ɪrən/ *adj* not needing to be ironed after washing: *a non-iron fabric*

no-no /'nɒnɒ/ *n* *informal* **1** something which one refuses to consider, or cannot take, as a possible course of action, etc.: *They might consider letting us borrow a little money, but a million pounds is a definite no-no.* **2** something that a child is forbidden to touch, esp. by their parents

no-non-sense /,nɒn'nɒnsens/ *adj* [A] practical and direct; BUSINESSLIKE: *Her no-nonsense approach soon solved the problem.*

non-pa-reil /'nɒnpərəɪl, -pərəɪl||,nɑːnpə'reɪl/ *n* **1** *lit* a person or thing so excellent as to have no equal **2** *AmE* for HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS **3** *AmE* a flat round piece of chocolate covered with nonpareils (2)

non-par-ti-san /,nɒnpɑːtɪ'zæn/||,nɑːn'pɑːtɪzən, -sən/ *n, adj* (a person) lacking interest in the arguments or ideas of a particular political party: *a nonpartisan approach to the housing problem*

non-pay-ment /,nɒn'peɪmənt||,nɑːn-/ *n* [U (of)] failure to pay (bills, tax, etc.): *The landlord took them to court for nonpayment of rent.*

non-plus /,nɒn'plʌs||,nɑːn-/ *v* -ss- [T *usu. pass.*] to cause (someone) to be surprised and not know what to think or do: *The speaker seemed completely nonplussed (by my question).*

non-prof-it-mak-ing /,nɒn'prɒfɪt'meɪkɪŋ/||,nɑːn'prɒfɪt'meɪkɪŋ/ *adj* **1** *BrE* || *usu.* **non-profit** or **not-for-profit** *AmE*— not run in order to make a profit: *This charity is a non-profit-making organization.* **2** not successful in making a profit; unprofitable

non-pro-lif-e-ra-tion /,nɒnprə'lɪfə'reɪʃən||,nɑːn-/ *n* [U] the act or aim of limiting NUCLEAR weapons to the same amounts and the same countries as at the (present) time: *a nonproliferation agreement* —see also PROLIFERATE

non-res-i-dent /,nɒn'rezɪdənt||,nɑːn-/ *n, adj* (a person) not living in a certain place, esp. in a country: *Are nonresidents entitled to vote?* **b** a hotel: *The hotel restaurant is open to nonresidents.*

non-res-i-den-tial /,nɒn'rezɪdəntiəl||,nɑːn'rezɪdəntiəl/ *adj* not staying overnight at the place where a certain activity is carried out: *non-residential students pay a reduced fee* | *non-residential care for the elderly* (=they are looked after during the day, and go home at night)

non-re-strict-ive /,nɒnrɪ'strɪktɪv/||,nɑːn-/ *adj* *tech* (of a CLAUSE) giving additional information about a person or thing, rather than saying which person or thing is meant:

In "My father, who collects stamps", the phrase "who collects stamps" is a nonrestrictive clause, because it does not tell us which father is meant but tells us something else about him. —compare RESTRICTIVE (2)

non-sense /'nɒnsəns/ || 'nɑːnsəns/ *n* [U] 1 speech or writing with no meaning: *She left out three words when she copied the sentence and the result was nonsense.* 2 statements, ideas, etc., that go against good sense; RUBBISH: "I can't go out dressed like this." "Nonsense! What nonsense! You look fine." | *You're talking complete utter nonsense.* | *Her speech was full of the usual nonsense about "Victorian values".* [also S, BrE] *To say that this law will not affect our profits is a nonsense.* 3 foolish behaviour: *Stop that nonsense, children!* | *a strict teacher who would stand no nonsense* 4 apprec humorous imaginative poetry usu. telling a rather meaningless story: *a collection of nonsense verse* 5 BrE **make (a) nonsense of** to spoil or cause to fail: *Your tactless remarks made nonsense of our attempts to reassure them.*

non-sen-si-cal /nɒn'sensɪkəl/ || 'nɑːn-/ *adj* full of nonsense; foolish; ABSURD: *nonsensical opinions* — **ly** /kli/ *adv*

non seq-ui-tur /,nɒn 'sekwɪtər/ || 'nɑːn-/ *n* **non sequiturs** *Lat fml* a statement which does not follow from the facts or arguments which have gone before; an incorrect piece of reasoning

non-shrink /,nɒ 'ʃrɪŋk/ *adj* (of a material or piece of clothing) not likely to get smaller if treated according to the washing instructions

non-smok-er /,nɒn 'smɒkər/ || 'nɑːn-/ *n* 1 a person who does not smoke 2 BrE a railway carriage where smoking is not allowed — **ing** *adj*

non-spe-cif-ic u-re-thri-tis /,nɒnspeɪsɪfɪk ˌjʊːrɪ 'θraɪtɪs/ || 'nɑːn-/ *n* see NSU

non-stand-ard /,nɒn 'stændəd/ || 'nɑːn 'stændəd/ *adj* 1 not standard: *nonstandard shoe sizes* —compare SUBSTANDARD 2 (of words, expressions, pronunciations, etc.) not usu. regarded as correct by educated speakers of a language: *Lots of people say "I gotta go", but "gotta" is still considered nonstandard.*

non-start-er /,nɒn 'stɑːtər/ || 'nɑːn 'stɑːr-/ *n* [usu. sing.] *infml* a person or idea that has no chance of success and so cannot be seriously considered: *We wanted to buy a house, but that was a nonstarter because we didn't have nearly enough money.*

non-stick /,nɒn 'striːk/ || 'nɑːn-/ *adj* (of a cooking pan) having a specially treated smooth inside surface to which food will not stick

non-stop /,nɒn 'stɒp/ || 'nɑːn 'stɒp-/ *adj, adv* without a pause or interruption: *a nonstop flight from London to Singapore* | *music playing nonstop all night*

non-U /,nɒn 'juː/ || 'nɑːn-/ *adj* BrE *old-fash infml* (esp. of a word or action) not used by or typical of the upper class: *wall-to-wall patterned carpets — distinctly non-U* | *He said "settee" — that's a bit non-U, isn't it?* —opposite U

non-u-nion /,nɒn 'juːnjən/ || 'nɑːn-/ *adj* 1 not belonging to a trade union: *nonunion employees* 2 not giving official recognition to a trade union: *a nonunion firm*

non-ver-bal /,nɒn 'vɜːbəl/ || 'nɑːn 'vɜːr-/ *adj* not using words: *nonverbal means of expression* — **ly** *adv*

non-vi-o-lence /,nɒn 'vaɪələns/ || 'nɑːn-/ *n* [U] political opposition without fighting, shown esp. by not obeying laws or orders: *Gandhi was an advocate of nonviolence.* — **lent** *adj*: *nonviolent protest* — **lently** *adv*

non-white /,nɒn 'waɪt/ || 'nɑːn-/ *n, adj* esp. SAfrE (a person who is) not white by race

noo-dle /'nuːdl/ *n* [usu. pl.] a usu. long thin food substance made from flour, water, and eggs, and cooked in soup or boiling water: *chicken noodle soup* | *beef with noodles*

nook /nʊk/ *n* 1 a small space in a corner of a room: *sitting in the chimney nook* (=the space in a corner beside the chimney) 2 a sheltered private place: *a shady nook in the garden* 3 **nooks and crannies** hidden or little-known places: *to search every nook and cranny* (=look everywhere)

noon /nuːn/ also **noon-day** /'nuːndeɪ/ *lit* — *n* [U] 12 o'clock in the daytime; MIDDAY: *We left home at noon.* —see also **morning, noon, and night** (MORNING)

▷ USAGE Noon is used in almost all contexts in American English where midday is found in British English. ◀

no one /'nəʊn/ also **nobody** — *pron* not anyone; no person: *There's no one here apart from me.* | *a surprise result that no one expected* | *Can you help me? No one else* (=no other person) *can.* | *No one likes being criticized.* | *No one has phoned me this morning, have they?* —see also **no one's fool** (FOOL¹ (9)), **like no one's business** (BUSINESS (10)); see EVERYONE (USAGE), SOMETHING (USAGE)

noose /nuːs/ *n* 1 [C] a ring formed by the end of a cord, rope, etc., which closes more tightly as it is pulled 2 [the] a rope with such a ring in it, used to hang a person; death by hanging

NOP /,en əʊ 'piː/ National Opinion Polls; a British organization which tries to find out what people in general think about a particular subject, esp. who will win an election

nope /nəʊp/ *adv* *sl* no: "Hungry?" "Nope. I just ate."

no place /'nəʊ ples/ *adv infml, esp. AmE* nowhere: *There's no place left to hide.*

no-quib-ble guar-an-tee /,nəʊ kwɪbəl ˌɡʊərənˈtiː/ *n infml* a GUARANTEE (1) in which the maker or seller of goods says they will replace any faulty goods willingly, without arguing over small details which might prevent the guarantee from being used

nor /nɔː/ *conj* 1 (used between the two or more choices after **neither**): *just pleasantly warm, neither too cold nor too hot* 2 (used before the second, third, etc., choices after **not**) and/or not: *The job cannot be done by you nor (by) me nor (by) anyone else.* 3 esp. BrE (used at the beginning of an expression just before a verb) and also not: "I don't like it." "Nor do I." | *I'm not going to work today and nor is Susie.* | (fml) *I have never been dishonest, nor do I intend to start being so now.* —see NEITHER³ (USAGE)

Nor-den /'nɔːdn/ || 'nɔːr-/ **Den-is** /'denɪs/ (1922–) an English writer for television and radio and a broadcaster who is best-known for the television programme *It'll be alright on the night*

Nor-dic /'nɔːdɪk/ || 'nɔːr-/ *adj* of the Germanic peoples of northern Europe, esp. Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, and Finland

Nor-folk /'nɔːfək/ || 'nɔːr-/ a COUNTY in eastern England, mainly farmland with some marshes (MARSH). It is known for the lakes called **the Norfolk Broads**, where many people take boating holidays.

Norfolk jack-et /,nɔːfək ˌdʒækət/ *n* a man's short coat with a belt and with PLEATS (=flat folds) in the front and at the back, worn esp. in former times

Nor-i-e-ga /,nɔːri'eɪgə/ || 'nɔːr-/ **Man-u-el** /mænu'el/ || mæn'wel/ (1940–) a soldier and politician, ruler of Panama from 1982 until 1989, when he was taken to the US and imprisoned for drug dealing, after President Bush had ordered American soldiers to INVADE Panama

norm /nɔːm/ || 'nɔːr-/ *n* a standard e.g. of behaviour or ability, that is regarded as average or generally acceptable: *terrorists who violate the norms of civilized society* | *deviation from the norm* | *a pay increase that is well below the national norm*

nor-mal /'nɔːməl/ || 'nɔːr-/ *adj* 1 according to what is expected, usual, or average: *normal working hours from nine to five* | *It's perfectly normal to get depressed sometimes.* | *Rainfall has been above/below normal this July.* | *Train services are now back to normal after last week's strike.* 2 (of a person) developing in the expected way; without any disorder in mind or body: *a normal child in every way* —compare ABNORMAL; see also NORMALLY

nor-mal-i-ty /nɔː'mælɪti/ || 'nɔːr-/ also **nor-mal-cy** /'nɔːməlsi/ || 'nɔːr-/ *AmE* — *n* [U] *fml* the quality or fact of being normal; the usual state of affairs: *We're hoping for a return to normality in our international relations.*

nor-mal-ize also **-ise** BrE /'nɔːməlaɪz/ || 'nɔːr-/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become normal; esp. to bring or come back to a normal friendly state: *After a period of international tension, the two countries are now trying to normalize relations with each other.* — **ization** /,nɔːməlaɪ'zeɪʃən/ || 'nɔːr-/ *n* [U]

nor-mal-ly /'nɔːməli/ || 'nɔːr-/ *adv* 1 in the usual way or to the usual degree: *behaving quite normally in spite of anxiety* | *The factory is now running normally again.* | *a normally active child* 2 in the usual conditions; ordinarily: *I normally go to bed early, but I stayed up late last night.* | *Normally, the disease lasts about five days.*

Nor-man¹ /'nɔ:mən||'nɔ:r-/ *adj* **1** of the northern French people who took control of England in the 11th century **2** (of buildings in Britain) built in the style (**Norman architecture**) of this period typically with thick, strong walls, tall, narrow windows and doors with rounded tops, and GEOMETRIC patterns decorating the stonework; ROMANESQUE: *a Norman church* | *a Norman arch* —see colour picture on page 227 —**Norman** *n*

Norman², **Greg** /greg/ (1955–) an Australian GOLF player who has won the world match-play title three times

Norman³, **Jes-sye** /'dʒesi/ (1945–) an American OPERA singer known for her beautiful and powerful voice

Norman⁴, **Bar-ry** /'bæri/ (1933–) an English writer and broadcaster known esp. for his programmes of film reviews

Norman Con-quest /,nɔ: 'kɒŋst||[the] the period in English history following the Battle of Hastings in 1066, when the Normans, led by William the Conqueror, ruled England, introducing French as the language spoken by the upper classes, and Norman ARCHITECTURE and customs. For no clear reason, the date of the Battle of Hastings is one of the few dates in history which most British people know, esp. in connection with a book, *1066 and all that* which describes the history of Britain in a very humorous way.

Nor-man-dy /'nɔ:məndi||'nɔ:r-/ a part of northern France, on the English Channel, known for production of cheeses, as well as the ports of Cherbourg and Le Havre where boats carrying passengers from England arrive. In 1944 it was the scene of the **Normandy Landings**, when the Allies landed on the Normandy shore and began to drive Adolf Hitler's forces out of France. The day on which they landed is called **D-Day**. —see also D-DAY

nor-ma-tive /'nɔ:mətiv||'nɔ:r-/ *adj fml* urging obedience to a rule; stating a NORM: *normative judgments about how people should behave* | *normative grammar*

Norse /nɔ:s||nɔ:rs/ *adj* of the ancient Scandinavian people, esp. the VIKINGS

Norse-man /'nɔ:smən||'nɔ:rs-/ *n -men* /mən/ *lit* a VIKING

north¹ /nɔ:θ||nɔ:rθ/ (*abbrev. N*) *n* (*often cap.*) **1** [*the*;U] the direction which is up from the centre line of the Earth (EQUATOR); the direction which is on the left of a person facing the rising sun: *I'm lost — which direction is North?* | *A strange light appeared in the north.* | *Cheshunt is a few kilometres (to the) north of London.* **2** [*the*] the northern part of a country: *The North will be dry and bright.* | *unemployment in the north of England.* | *the frozen North* —see also NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE, TRUE NORTH

north² (*abbrev. N*) *adj* [A] **1** (*sometimes cap.*) in the north or facing the north: *The north side of the building doesn't get much sun.* | *He lives in North Korea.* **2** (of a wind) coming from the north: *a cold north wind*

▷ USAGE For clear divisions of the Earth's surface, especially political ones, we usually say **North, South, East, or West**. For more uncertain ones we usually say **Northern, Southern, Eastern or Western**. Compare **South Africa** | **Southern England** | *the North Pole* | **Northern Europe** | **East Sussex** | **Eastern countries**. But these words are often part of a name, and there is no clear rule about which form will be correct. <

north³ (*abbrev. N*) *adv* (*often cap.*) **1** towards the north: *The room faces north, so it gets rather cold.* | *The birds fly north in summer.* | *Edinburgh is (a long way) north of London.* **2 up north** *infml* to or in the north of the country: *They've moved up north.*

North¹ *n* [*the*] **1** the northeastern states of the US, esp. during the CIVIL WAR, when they fought the SOUTH. Today, the NEW ENGLAND states and New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania are usu. called the **Northeast**, while the states to the west of these are called the MIDWEST. —compare SOUTH; —see also WEST (2) **2** the northern part of Britain —see also NORTH/SOUTH DIVIDE **3** the richer countries of esp. northern parts of the world, such as Europe and North America —see also NORTH/SOUTH DIVIDE (2)

North², **Ol-i-ver** /'ɒlɪvə||'ɑ:l-/ (1943–) an American Marine Lieutenant-Colonel, who was in charge of the US bombing of Libya in 1986. He was also tried for his involvement in a deal with Iran in 1985 in which the US gave weapons to Iran in exchange for the release of American HOSTAGES. The charges against Oliver North were later dropped. —see also IRANGATE

North-al-ler-ton /nɔ:θ'ælətən||nɔ:rθ'ælər-/ a market town in North Yorkshire, NE England, where the local government for that COUNTY is based

North A-mer-i-ca /,nɔ: 'æm.ɪ.ka/ the third largest CONTINENT in the world, consisting of Canada and the United States of America, as well as Mexico, Central America, Greenland, and other smaller islands —**can** *n,adj*

Nor-thamp-ton /nɔ:θ'æmptən || nɔ:r-/ a town in Northamptonshire, central England, where the local government for that COUNTY is based. It is famous for its shoe-making industry.

Nor-thamp-ton-shire /nɔ:θ'æmptənʃə||nɔ:r-/ *abbrev. Nor-thants.* /'nɔ:θænts||'nɔ:r-/ a COUNTY in central England. It is mainly farmland but has some industries including engineering, iron and steel-making, and shoe-making.

North At-lan-tic Treat-y Or-ga-ni-za-tion /,nɔ: 'æ.tɪk 'tri:ti 'ɔ:ɡə.ni.za.tʃən||[the] see NATO

north-bound /'nɔ:θbaʊnd||'nɔ:rθ-/ *adj* travelling or leading towards the north: *northbound traffic* | *the northbound side of the motorway*

North Car-o-li-na /,nɔ:θ kærə'lainə||nɔ:r-/ *written abbrev. NC*—a state on the eastern coast of the US, known mainly for production of tobacco. It was one of the 13 original British colonies (COLONY) —see colour map on pages 1374–5

North Cir-cu-lar /,nɔ: 'θɜ:klər||[the] an important road, the A406, which goes through N London in a SEMICIRCLE and connects with the South Circular Road on the east and the west sides of London

North-cliffe /'nɔ:θklɪf||'nɔ:rθ-/ **Lord** (1865–1922) an Irish writer for newspapers and a leading man in this field who helped to increase their spread and started three important British newspapers with his brothers

North Da-ko-ta /,nɔ:θ də'kəʊtə || ,nɔ:rθ-/ *written abbrev. ND* a state in the north central US, on the border with Canada, with a small population but sizeable mineral and farming interests —see colour map on pages 1374–5

North Downs /,nɔ: 'θaʊnz||[the+P] a range of hills to the S of London, running across S England. The white cliffs of Dover are at the eastern end. —compare SOUTH DOWNS

north-east¹ /,nɔ:θ'i:stə||,nɔ:rθ-/ (*abbrev. NE*) *n* (*often cap.*) **1** [*the*;U] the direction which is half-way between north and east: *The wind's in (=is coming from) the northeast.* **2** [*the*] the northeastern part of a country, esp. the northeastern part of England, from Humberside to the Scottish border

northeast² (*abbrev. NE*) *adj* [A] (of a wind) coming from the northeast —**northeast** *adv*: *to sail northeast* | *Burma is northeast of Sri Lanka.*

Northeast Cor-ri-dor /,nɔ: 'θi:stərɪ||[the] the area of the northeast US, roughly between Boston and Washington DC, which has the highest population DENSITY in the country

north-east-er /,nɔ:θ'i:stər||,nɔ:rθ-/ *n* a strong wind or storm coming from the northeast

north-east-er-ly /,nɔ:θ'i:stərli||,nɔ:rθ'i:stərli/ *adj* **1** towards or in the northeast: *Rain will spread to northeasterly regions during the day.* **2** (of a wind) coming from the northeast

north-east-ern /,nɔ:θ'i:stən||,nɔ:rθ'i:stərən/ (*abbrev. NE*) *adj* (*often cap.*) of the northeast part, esp. of a country

Northeast Pas-sage /,nɔ: 'θi:stə||[the] a way by sea along the N coast of Europe and Asia, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, discovered by the Swedish EXPLORER Nils Nordenskjöld in 1878–79

north-east-ward /,nɔ:θ'i:stwəd||,nɔ:rθ'i:stwəd/ *adj* going towards the northeast: *in a northeastward direction* —**northeastwards, northeastward** *adv*: *sailing northeastwards*

nor-ther-ly /'nɔ:ðəli||'nɔ:rðərli/ *adj* **1** towards or in the north: *We set off in a northerly direction.* **2** (of a wind) coming from the north: *strong northerly winds*

nor-thern /'nɔ:ðən||'nɔ:rðən/ (*abbrev. N*) *adj* (*often cap.*) of or belonging to the north part of the world or of a country: *In the northern hemisphere, spring is in March and April.* | *a Northern accent* —see NORTH² (USAGE) —see picture at GLOBE

nor-thern-er /'nɔ:ðənər||'nɔ:rðər-/ *n* (also *cap.*) a person who lives in or comes from the northern part of a country



Northern Ire-land /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ the northern part of Ireland, which is politically part of the United Kingdom and consists of six counties (COUNTY) of the ancient region of Ulster; capital Belfast. Most of the people who live there are PROTESTANT, and usually UNIONISTS who want it to remain part of the United Kingdom, but many ROMAN CATHOLICS who live there are REPUBLICANS and think it should join with the Republic of Ireland and become part of an Irish state. Both sides use violence, including bombing and shooting people, and the British government keeps a force of armed soldiers there to try to control the situation. Repeated attempts to find a political settlement have failed, and few people can see any answer to Northern Ireland's problems. When people talk about **the Northern Ireland situation**, or the **troubles** in Northern Ireland, this is what they mean. —see also BELFAST, IRA¹

Northern Ireland As-sem-bly /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ [the] the governing authority of Northern Ireland between 1982 and 1986, ended by the British government in 1986 because Unionist Party members in the Assembly, in a protest against the Anglo-Irish Agreement, were preventing the Assembly from operating

northern lights /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *n* [the+P] (*usu. caps.*) see AURORA

northern-most /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *adj* furthest north: *the northernmost parts of Norway*

Northern Ter-ri-to-ry /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ [the] an area of N central Australia, the chief city of which is Darwin

North Is-land /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *n* [the] the further north of the two main islands of New Zealand

North Ko-re-a /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ a republic in NE Asia; capital Pyongyang —see also KOREA

north of Wat-ford /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *adv* [*no comp.*] *often humor* the northern part of Britain, esp. in its distance from London: *I don't know where that town is, it's north of Watford somewhere.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Watford is a town northwest of London, just outside the boundaries of Greater London. One of London's Underground railway lines ends there. People often make jokes saying that the cultural life associated with London does not extend any further than Watford: *He won't have seen that new film yet — he lives north of Watford!* ◀

North Pole /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ [the] (the lands around) the most northern point on the surface of the Earth —see also MAGNETIC POLE, SOUTH POLE —see picture at GLOBE

North-Ri-ding /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ [the] a former local government division of Yorkshire, N England, which after 1974 became part of the COUNTY of North Yorkshire

North Sea /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ [the] an arm of the Atlantic Ocean, between Great Britain and NW Europe. It is economically important because of its fish, and also for oil and gas which were discovered in 1970 under the sea. —see colour map on page 818

North Sea gas /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *n* [U] gas which is found along with the oil under the North Sea. Most of the gas used in British homes and businesses is North Sea gas.

North Sea oil /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *n* [U] oil which is found under the North Sea. Britain has gained a lot of money from sales of North Sea oil since its discovery in 1970.

North/South di-vide /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *n* [(the)] **1** the difference between the north of a country and the south, as shown e.g. in the employment situation, standard of living, wages, health and CULTURE: *The government was accused of creating a North/South divide.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain the North/South divide is between northern England and Scotland, and southern England, esp. the south-east. People in the South generally have better pay than people in the North; there is less unemployment and people are healthier and have better services. In the North the cost of living is lower and housing, in particular, is cheaper. Although the term North/South divide expresses general differences, some areas in the South, particularly Wales and south-west England, also have high rates of unemployment, while some parts of north-east England and Scotland are comparatively wealthy. —see also NORTH OF WATFORD ◀

2 the difference between the richer countries of the northern parts of the world and the poorer countries of the south, as shown by living standards and levels of industrial and economic development —see also NORTH¹ (2), SOUTH (3)

North-um-ber-land /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ a COUNTY in NE England, bordering on Scotland and the North Sea, known mainly for its historical remains, esp. the Roman wall which is well preserved and enjoyed by walkers

Nor-thum-bri-a /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ a former Anglo-Saxon kingdom in England and southern Scotland, formed in the seventh century and becoming part of the kingdom of Wessex after 920. The name is sometimes used unofficially when talking about this area, esp. the English part of it.

Northumbrian Wa-ter /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ a water company in NE England that deals with the supply of water to people and businesses and the removal and treatment of SEWAGE

North Wales /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ the N part of Wales, including Anglesey and Snowdonia —see also WALES

North Wa-li-an /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *n* [*infml*] **1** [C] a person born or living in North Wales **2** [U] the variety of English spoken in North Wales, noted for its special INTONATION

north-ward /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *adj* going towards the north: *in a northward direction*

north-wards /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ also **northward** — *adv* towards the north: *We sailed northwards.* | *It's further northward than you might think.* —see also NORTH³

north-west¹ /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ (*abbrev. NW*) *n* (*often cap.*) **1** [the;U] the direction which is half-way between north and west: *The wind is in (=is coming from) the northwest.* **2** [the] the northwestern part of a country

northwest² (*abbrev. NW*) *adj* [A] (of a wind) coming from the northwest —**northwest** *adv*: *to sail northwest* | *The town is northwest of Washington D.C.*

north-west-er /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *n* a strong wind or storm coming from the northwest

north-west-er-ly /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *adj* **1** towards or in the northwest **2** (of a wind) coming from the northwest

north-west-ern /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ (*abbrev. NW*) *adj* (*often cap.*) of the northwest part, esp. of a country

Northwestern U-ni-ver-si-ty /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ also **Northwestern** — a private university in Evanston, Illinois near Chicago, US

Northwest Pas-sage /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ [the] a way by sea along the N coast of North America, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, first sailed over by Roald Amundsen in 1903–06

Northwest Ter-ri-to-ries /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ [the+P] the large area in NW Canada E of the Yukon. It covers a third of the area of Canada but it has a very small population and very cold weather.

north-west-ward /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *adj* going towards the northwest: *in a northwestward direction* —**northwestwards**, **northwestward** *adv*: *sailing northwestwards*

North West Wa-ter /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ a water company in NW England that deals with the supply of water to people and businesses and the removal and treatment of SEWAGE

North York Moors /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ [the+P] an area of high, open land, a National Park, in NE Yorkshire, N England

North York-shire /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ a COUNTY in NE England. It consists mainly of farmland. The centre of local government is at Northallerton but the main city is York —see YORKSHIRE

Nor-way /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ a country of northern Europe, in W Scandinavia; capital Oslo; population 4,227,000 (1989). It is known esp. for its beautiful FJORDS.

Nor-we-gian /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ *n* **1** [C] a person who comes from or whose parents come from Norway **2** [U] the language spoken in Norway —**Norwegian** *adj*

Nor-wich /ˌnɔːr.ə.ˈlæn.d/ a city in Norfolk, E central England, where the local government for that COUNTY is based. It has a university, the University of East Anglia, an important market, and a CATHEDRAL.

nos. *written abbrev. for:* numbers

nose¹ /ˌnɔːz/ *n* **1** [C] the part of the face above the mouth which is the organ of smell and through which air is breathed: *a broken nose* | *He punched me on the nose.* | *to blow one's nose* (=clear it by blowing strongly into a handkerchief) | *a baby with a runny nose* (=with MUCUS coming out of the nose) —see also ROMAN NOSE, and

see picture at **HEAD 2** [C] the narrow or pointed front end of something, such as a car, plane, tool, or gun: *The nose of the plane dipped as we came in to land.* | *The instruments are in the nose section of the rocket.* —see picture at **AIRCRAFT 3** [S (for)] **a** the sense of smell: *a dog with a good nose* **b** the ability to find (out) or recognize things: *a newspaper reporter with a good nose for a story* (=a special ability to find one) | *Turn left at the corner, then just follow your nose and you're sure to find it.* **4** [C] *infml* the nose thought of as representing a too great interest in things which do not concern one: *Keep your (big) nose out of this.* | *Stop poking your nose into my affairs!* —see also **NOSY 5** **get up someone's nose** *BrE infml* to annoy someone very much **6** **keep one's 'nose clean** *infml* to avoid getting into trouble, breaking the law, etc. **7** **one's nose to the grindstone** *infml* working very hard, without interruption: *We'll have to keep our noses to the grindstone to finish this by six o'clock.* **8** **poke/stick one's nose in (where it's not wanted)** *infml* to INTERFERE in someone else's business **9** **put someone's 'nose out of joint** *infml* to make someone jealous, esp. by taking their place as the centre of attention **10** **turn one's nose up (at)** *infml* to consider (something) not good enough or important enough to be enjoyed or taken seriously: *My children turn up their noses at fresh vegetables/at classical music.* **11** **under someone's (very) nose** *infml* right in front of someone; quite openly: *They stole the jewels from under the very nose(s) of the police.* **12** **-nosed** /nəʊzd/ having a certain shape or kind of nose: *red-nosed* | *long-nosed* —see also **HARD-NOSED**, **cut off one's nose to spite one's face** (**CUT OFF**), **lead someone by the nose** (**LEAD**¹), **NOSE JOB**, **pay through the nose** (**PAY**¹), **powder one's nose** (**POWDER**²), **rub someone's nose in (the dirt)** (**RUB**¹)

nose² *v* **1** [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to move or push ahead slowly and carefully: *a ship nosing its way through the narrow channel* | *I nosed the car (out)/The car nosed (out) into the traffic.* **2** [I+adv/prep] *infml* to try to find out esp. things that do not concern one; search; PRY: *The old lady was nosing about (the house), looking for dust.* | *Stop nosing into my affairs!*

nose sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *infml* to discover by careful and continuous searching: *The reporters have nosed out some interesting facts about the political scandal.*

nose-bag /'nəʊzbæg/ *usu.* **feedbag** *AmE*— *n* a bag hung around a horse's head to hold its food

nose-bleed /'nəʊzbli:d/ *n* a case of bleeding from the nose: *He often has nosebleeds.*

nose-cone /'nəʊzkəʊn/ *n* the CONE-shaped front part of a spacecraft or MISSILE, which may separate from the rest

nose-dive /'nəʊzdaɪv/ *v* [I] **1** (of an aircraft) to drop suddenly with the nose pointing (almost) straight down **2** to fall or drop suddenly and by a great deal: *Prices have nosedived in the last year.* —**nosedive** *n*

no-see-um /nəʊ 'si: əm/ *n* *AmE* a very small summer insect that is difficult to see but easy to feel when it bites

nose-gay /'nəʊzgeɪ/ *n* *lit* a small bunch of flowers, *usu.* to be carried or worn on a dress —compare **CORSAGE**

nose job /'· / *n* a medical operation on the nose to change its appearance: *Michael Jackson sure looked different after his nose job.*

nosh¹ /nɒʃ||nɑ:ʃ/ *v* [I] *BrE sl* to eat

nosh² *n* *BrE sl* **1** [S] a meal: *a quick nosh* **2** [U] food: *They serve good nosh there.*

no-show /'· / *a* person who is expected to appear (at a theatre or restaurant, or on an aircraft) and doesn't: *Those three seats in the front are no-shows.*

nosh-up /'· / *n* [S] *BrE sl* a big satisfying meal: *What a nosh-up we had on my birthday!*

nos-tal-gia /nɒ'stældʒə||nɑ:-/ *n* [U] a feeling of fondness for something in the past, often mixed with a kind of pleasant sadness: *nostalgia for the clothes of the 1920s* | *The old song filled me with nostalgia.* —**-gic** *adj*: *The film was a nostalgic re-creation of 19th century America.* —**-gically** /kli/ *adv*

Nos-tra-da-mus /,nɒstrə'dɑ:məs||,nɑ:-/ (1503–66) a French doctor and ASTROLOGER who gave advice to the French royal family, and wrote a book of prophesies (PROPHECY) in RHYME which has been considered very meaningful by various people who believe that what he said will happen in the future

nos-tril /'nɒstrɪl||'nɑ:-/ *n* either of the two openings at the end of the nose, through which one breathes and smells —see picture at **HEAD**

nos-trum /'nɒstrəm||'nɑ:-/ *n* *derog* a medicine of unknown contents (not one given by a doctor), which is claimed to be effective, perhaps falsely: (fig.) *There is no simple nostrum for the problem of unemployment.* —compare **PANACEA**

nos-y, nose-y /'nəʊzi/ *adj* *derog infml* interested in things that do not concern one; tending to PRY: *Our nosy neighbours are always watching us.* —see also **NOSE**¹ (4) —**-iness** *n* [U]

nosy park-er /'· / *n* *BrE derog infml* a nosy person

not /nɒt||nɑ:t/ *adv* **1** (used for changing a word or expression to one with the opposite meaning): **a** (with verbs): *We're not coming/We aren't coming.* | *If you didn't like it you were wrong not to say so.* —see **USAGE b** (with other words and expressions): *not thirsty* | *not on Sundays* | *It's a cat, not a dog.* | *It's not a cat, but a dog.* | *Not everyone likes this book.* (=some people don't like it) | *The question is not at all easy to answer.* | *"Do you want to go?" "Not me!"* (=I don't, though others may want to) | *Not all her books have been as successful as this one.* (=some have been unsuccessful) —compare **NO**¹ **2** (used in place of a whole expression, often after verbs marked [+that]): *Are you coming or not?* | *"Will it rain?" "I hope not."* (=I hope that it won't rain) | *"Have you got £5 to lend me?" "I'm afraid not."* | *I'll try to come by nine, but if not, start the meeting without me.* —compare **so**¹ (2) **3** *esp.* *pomp* (used with negative words, esp. those beginning with **un-** and words meaning "small", "slow", etc., to give force to the opposite meaning): *a not uncommon problem* (=a very common one) | *not slow to complain, and not without good reason* | *He drank not a little* (=drank a lot) *of the wine.* | *It was not without its problems.* **4** **not a** not even one: *"How much did this cost?" "Not a penny!"* (=nothing) | *Not a (single) house was left standing after the earthquake.* —see also **NARY 5** **Not at all** *rather fml* (an answer to thanks or polite praise): *"Thanks for coming." "Not at all: I enjoyed it."* **6** **not only ... but (also)** (used to show a second choice as well as the first one): *Shakespeare was not only a writer but (also) an actor.* **7** **not that** although it is not true that: *Where were you last night? Not that I care, of course.* —see also **not half** (**HALF**³), **not to say** (**SAY**¹)

▷ **USAGE** **Not** can be shortened to **n't** after *is, are, was, were, has, have, had, do, does, did, can, could, would, should, must, ought, need, may* (*BrE*), *might, dare* (*BrE*), *used* (*BrE*). **Shall not** and **will not** can be shortened to **shan't** (*BrE*) and **won't**. Otherwise **not** is never shortened. —see also **NO** (**USAGE**), **AIN'T**◀

no-ta-ble¹ /'nəʊtəbəl/ *adj* [(for)] deserving to be noticed or given attention; important or excellent; **OUTSTANDING**: *notable events* | *a notable improvement* | *The area is notable for its pleasant climate.* | *Most of the directors are men, but Ms Parker is a notable exception.* —**-bility** /,nəʊtə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

notable² *n* [*usu. pl.*] a famous or important person

no-ta-bly /'nəʊtəbli/ *adv* **1** especially; particularly: *Many members were absent, notably the vice-chairman.* **2** noticeably: *notably higher sales*

no-ta-rize also **-rise** *BrE* /'nəʊtəraɪz/ *v* [T often pass.] *fml* (of a notary) to make (a written statement) official: *to have a will notarized*







no-ta-ry /'nəʊtəri/ also **notary public** /'· / *n* a public official with the power in law to witness the signing of written statements and make them official

no-ta-tion /nəʊ'teɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] the use of a system of written signs to describe the stated kinds of things and represent things, e.g. musical notes or ideas in: *a page covered with musical/mathematical notation.* See picture on page 909

notch¹ /nɒtʃ||nɑ:tʃ/ *n* **1** a V-shaped cut in a surface or edge: *He cut a notch in the stick with a sharp knife.* **2** *infml* a degree on a scale: *a good book, several notches above anything else by this writer* **3** *AmE* a narrow passage between mountains —see also **TOP-NOTCH**

notch² *v* [T] **1** to make a notch in **2** [(UP)] *infml* to win or record (a victory or gain): *The team notched up their third victory in a row.*

note¹ /nəʊt/ *n* **1** [C] also **notes** *pl.*— a record or reminder

mathematical notation	musical notation	notation
= is equal to		breve
≠ is not equal to		semibreve BrE/ whole note AmE
> is greater than		minim BrE/ half note AmE
< is less than		crotchet BrE/ quarter note AmE
≥ is greater than or equal to		quaver BrE/ eighth note AmE
≤ is less than or equal to		semiquaver BrE/ sixteenth note AmE

in writing: *Make notes* | *Make a note of how much money you spend on the trip.* | *students taking notes in a lecture* | *The speaker forgot his notes so he had to talk from memory.* **2** [C] a remark added to a piece of writing and placed outside the main part of the writing, e.g. at the side or bottom of a page, esp. to give more information: *I made some notes in the margin.* | *I really couldn't understand the text — I had to refer to the notes at the back.* —see also FOOTNOTE **3** [C] a short usu. informal letter: *a thank-you note* **b** a formal letter between governments: *a diplomatic note* **4** [C] also **bill** AmE— a piece of paper money: *a £5 note* —see also BANK NOTE **5** [C] also **tone** AmE— (a written sign representing) a single musical sound of a particular length and degree of highness or lowness: *I can't sing the high notes.* **6** [S (of)] a stated quality or feeling: *There was a note of anger in her voice.* | *Although the company still has some difficulties, the director's report ended on an optimistic note.* (=showing a hopeful feeling) **7 of note** fml **a** of fame or importance: *a writer of (some/great) note* **b** worth noticing or paying attention to: *Did anything of note happen at the meeting?* **8 take note of** to pay careful attention to: *The committee has taken note of objections.* —see also CLIFF'S NOTES, CREDIT NOTE, DEBIT NOTE, DELIVERY NOTE, MENTAL NOTE, **compare notes** (COMPARE¹), **strike a note (of)** (STRIKE¹)

note² *v* [T] fml **1** to notice and remember; OBSERVE: *Note the way this writer uses the present tense for dramatic effect.* [+that] *Please note that this bill must be paid within ten days.* [+wh-] *Note how he operates the machine and try to copy him.* **2** to call attention to; remark: *The report notes with approval the government's efforts to resolve this problem.*

note-book /'nəʊtbʊk/ *n* a book of plain paper in which NOTES can be written: *When I use my dictionary I jot down all the new words I learn in this little notebook.*

not-ed /'nəʊtɪd/ *adj* [(for)] well known, esp. because of a special quality or ability: *a noted authority on American history* | *a town noted for its cheeses* | (humor) *He's not exactly noted for his generosity.* (=He is very mean.)

note-let /'nəʊtlɪt/ *n* a small folded card usu. with a picture on the front, used for writing a short letter

note-pad /'nəʊtpæd/ *n* a small PAD¹ (2) for writing lists, messages, etc.

note-pa-per /'nəʊt,peɪpə/ *n* [U] paper for writing letters on; WRITING PAPER

note-wor-thy /'nəʊt,wɜːði||-ɜːr-/ *adj* (esp. of things and events) deserving attention; NOTABLE: *There's nothing particularly noteworthy in this report.*

not-for-prof-it /,nɒtˌfɒrˈprɒfɪt/ *adj* AmE for NON-PROFIT MAKING

noth-ing¹ /'nɒθɪŋ/ *pron* **1** not any thing; no thing: *There's nothing in this box: it's empty.* | *I've got nothing to do.* | *Nothing ever happens in this town.* | *You'll have to have bread—there's nothing else* (=no other thing) *to eat.* | *We want you to tell us the truth — nothing more, nothing less.* | *There's nothing in these rumours* (=they are not true). | *"What's the food like at your school?" "Nothing special."* (=not very good) | *It cost next to nothing.* (=almost nothing) **2** something of no importance: *She's nothing to me.* | *They think nothing of walking 20 miles.* | *"Is there anything good on the telly tonight?" "Nothing in particular."* **3** AmE zero (esp. in sports results): *We beat them*

ten to nothing. **4 for nothing:** **a** for no money; free: *I got this bicycle for nothing: my friend gave me it when she bought a new one.* **b** for no purpose; with no good result: *All our preparations were/went for nothing because the exam was cancelled.* —see also GOOD-FOR-NOTHING **5 nothing but** only: *He's nothing but a criminal.* **6 nothing doing** sl no; I won't: *"Will you lend me £5?" "Nothing doing."* **7 nothing** 'for it no other way possible: *With the bridge destroyed, there was nothing for it but to swim.* **8 nothing if not** (used to add force to an expression) very: *He's nothing if not determined.* (=He's very determined.) **9 nothing much** infml not much; very little: *There's nothing much happening this week.* **10 nothing to do with** (having) no connection with: *My affairs have/are nothing to do with you.* **11 nothing to it** no difficulty in it: *Anyone can ride a bike — there's nothing to it.* —see also SWEET NOTHINGS, **to say nothing of** (SAY¹ (21)); see SOMETHING (USAGE)

nothing² *adv* (in certain phrases) in no way; not at all: *Your house is nothing like ours.* | *A hundred dollars for a room — that's nothing short of* (=it's almost the same as) *robbery.* | (BrE) *He failed the test six times but, nothing daunted* (=not at all discouraged), *he decided to take it again.*

noth-ing-ness /'nɒθɪŋnɪs/ *n* [U] the state of being nothing; not being: *Is there only nothingness after death?*

no-tice¹ /'nəʊtɪs/ *n* **1** [C] a written or printed statement giving information or directions to the public: *They announced the birth of their baby by putting a notice in the newspaper.* | *The notice on the wall says "No smoking".* | *The workers put up a notice announcing a mass meeting.* **2** [U] a warning or information about something that is going to happen: *These rules are subject to change without notice.* | *Can you be ready at ten minutes' notice?* (=if I tell you only ten minutes before) | *The office is closed until further notice.* (=from now until another change is made) | *If you want to reserve a room you have to give them a few days' notice.* **b** formal warning of the end of an agreement: *I'm fed up with this job, I'm giving in my notice tomorrow.* | *The landlady has given me notice to quit.* (=has told me I will have to leave my house, room, etc.) | *If the company wants to dismiss me, they have to give me three months' notice.* **3** [U] attention: *Don't take any notice of* (=pay no attention to) *what he says.* | *It has come to my notice/not escaped my notice* (=I have noticed or been told) *that some of you have been missing classes.* **4** [C often pl.] a statement of opinion, esp. in a newspaper, about a new book, play, etc.; REVIEW: *The new play got mixed notices.* (=some good, some bad)

notice² *v* [I;T not in progressive forms] to pay attention (to) with the eyes, other senses, or mind; OBSERVE: *She was wearing a new dress, but he didn't even notice (it).* [+obj+/-ing] *Did you notice anyone leave/leaving the house?* [+wh-] *Did you notice whether I locked the door?* [+ (that)] *"I noticed (that) he was looking very nervous."* "Yes, so I noticed." | *a young actress trying to get herself noticed* (=to become publicly known)

no-tice-a-ble /'nəʊtɪsəbəl/ *adj* worth noticing or easily noticed; SIGNIFICANT: *a noticeable drop in the amount of crime* | *The damage to my car is hardly noticeable.* —**bly** *adv*: *noticeably fewer people* | *Crime has decreased noticeably.*

notice board /'nɒtɪsˌbɔːd/ BrE || **bulletin board** AmE— *n* a board on a wall which notices may be fixed to: *If you look on the notice board, you'll find details of tomorrow's classes.*

no-ti-fi-a-ble /'nəʊtɪfaɪəbəl/ *adj* tech, esp. BrE (esp. of certain diseases) needing by law to be reported to an office of public health: *Typhoid, cholera, etc., are notifiable diseases.*

no-ti-fi-ca-tion /,nəʊtɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* fml [C usu. sing.;U] (the act of giving) warning or information: *If you decide to go ahead with the rebuilding scheme, can you give us some notification?*

no-ti-fy /'nəʊtɪfaɪ/ *v* [T (of)] to tell (someone), esp. formally; INFORM: *to notify the police of a crime* [+obj+that] *Please notify all staff that the inspectors will be here on Monday.*

no-tion /'nəʊʃən/ *n* **1** an idea, belief, or opinion in someone's mind; CONCEPT: *an education system based on the old-fashioned notion of women as home-makers* [+that] *the old notion that the sun moved round the Earth* [+wh-] *I haven't the faintest notion* (=I have no idea at all) *what you're talking about.* **2** a sudden desire; WHIM: [+to-v]

She took/had a sudden notion to visit all her relatives. — see also NOTIONS

no-tion-al /'nəʊʃənəl/ *adj* **1** existing only in the mind, not in practice; THEORETICAL: *to give the object a notional price* **2** *tech* (of a word) having an actual meaning in a sentence: "Have" in "I have an apple" is notional; it means "possess". —compare RELATIONAL

no-tions /'nəʊʃənz/ *n* [P] *esp. AmE* small things for sewing or other useful purposes, sold in one part of a large shop: *You'll find that in notions, on the third floor.*

no-to-ri-e-ty /,nəʊtə'reɪəti/ *n* [U] the state of being notorious: *His daring escape from prison gained him a certain notoriety.*

no-to-ri-ous /nəʊ'tɔːriəs, nə-/ *adj* [(for)] *derog* famous or widely known for something bad: *a notorious murderer* | *This airport is notorious for its bad security.* —see FAMOUS (USAGE) — *~ly adv*: *a notoriously inefficient company* — *~ness n* [U]

Not-re Dame /,nɒtrə 'dɑːm||,nəʊtər-/ also **Notre Dame de Pa-ris** /,nɒtrə 'dɑːm də pæ'riː||,nəʊtər-/ *fml* — a CATHEDRAL (large church) in Paris which is a beautiful Gothic building —see also HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame /,nɒtrə 'dɑːm||,nəʊtər 'deɪm/, **University of** a private Catholic university in Indiana, US, noted *esp.* for its football team

Not-ting-ham /'nɒtɪŋəm||'nɑː-/ a city in Nottinghamshire, in central England where the local government for that COUNTY is based. It has long been a centre for the making of LACE —see colour map on page 818

Nottingham For-est /,... 'ɒ-/ a leading English football team from Nottingham

Not-ting-ham-shire /'nɒtɪŋəmʃə||'nɑː-/ *abbrev.* **Notts.** a COUNTY in central England; consisting mainly of farmland and some coalfields

Not-ting Hill Car-ni-val /,nɒtɪŋ hɪl 'kɑːnɪvəl||,nɑː-, -'kɑːr-/ [*the*] a street CARNIVAL that takes place in the Notting Hill area of west London in August every year, mostly involving black people and known for the colourful COSTUMES worn and the steel band music played

Notts. /nɒts||nɑːts/ *abbrev. for:* Nottinghamshire; an area of central England

not-with-stand-ing /,nɒtwɪð'stændɪŋ, -wɪð-||,nɑːt-/ *prep fml* in spite of (used after its object): *They are determined to go ahead with the plan, notwithstanding widespread public opposition.* | *They went ahead, public opposition notwithstanding.* —**notwithstanding adv**

nou-gat /'nuːgɑː||-gət/ *n* [C;U] (a small piece of) a sticky pink or white sweet made of sugar, nuts, bits of fruit, etc.

nought /nɔːt/ *n* **1** [C] *BrE* (the figure) 0; zero: *0.6 is usually read "nought point six", and .06 is usually read "point nought six".* —see ZERO (USAGE) **2** [U] *esp. old use or lit* nothing; NAUGHT

noughts and cross-es /,... 'ɒ-/ *BrE* || **tick-tack-toe** *AmE* — *n* [U] a game in which two players take turns to write O or X in a pattern of nine squares, trying to win with a row of three Os or three Xs

noun /naʊn/ *n* a word or group of words that is the name of a person (such as *Mary* or *teacher* or *police officer*), a place (such as *France* or *school*), a thing or activity (such as *coffee* or *football*), or a quality or idea (such as *danger* or *happiness*). Nouns can be used as the subject or object of a verb (as in *The teacher arrived* or *We like the teacher*) or as the object of a PREPOSITION (as in *good at football*). —see also COMMON NOUN, COUNT NOUN, PROPER NOUN, VERBAL NOUN

nour-ish /'naʊɪʃ||'nɜːrɪʃ, 'nɑː-/ *v* [T] **1** to give (someone) what is needed in order to live, grow, and stay healthy: *Milk is a nourishing drink.* | *a well-nourished baby* —see also UNDERNOURISHED **2** (of a person) to keep (a feeling, plan, etc.) alive; ENTERTAIN (3): *to nourish the hope of a trip abroad*

nour-ish-ment /'naʊɪʃmənt||'nɜːrɪʃ-, 'nɑː-/ *n* [U] *esp. fml* something that nourishes; food: *The child took no nourishment all day.* | *Plants get nourishment from the soil.*

nous /naʊs||nuːs/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* practical good judgment; COMMON SENSE

nou-veau riche /,nuːvəʊ 'riːʃ/ also **new rich, new money** *AmE* — *n* **nouveaux riches** (same pronunciation) [*usu.*

pl.] *usu. derog* a person or people having only recently become rich and tending to spend a lot of money in order to prove one's wealth, *esp.* in a way that is thought of as lacking in good TASTE —**nouveau riche adj**

nou-velle cui-sine /,nuːvel kwɪ 'ziːn/ *n* [U] a style of cooking, originally from France, that uses a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables cooked in a simple way, without using a lot of cream and SAUCES

Nov. written abbrev. for: NOVEMBER

no-va /'nəʊvə/ *n* -**vas** or -**vae** /'nəʊviː/ a star which explodes and suddenly becomes much brighter, and then gradually fainter —compare SUPERNOVA

No-va Sco-tia /,nəʊvə 'skəʊʃə/ a PROVINCE of SE Canada which sticks out into the Atlantic Ocean east of New Brunswick. It consists mainly of farmland and forests, and also produces minerals.

No-va-ya Zem-ly-a /,nəʊviə 'zemliə/ a group of islands in the Arctic Ocean off the NE coast of Russia

nov-el /'nɒvəl||'nɑː-/ *n* a long written story, not in poetry, dealing with invented people and events: "War and Peace", the great novel by Leo Tolstoy

novel ² *adj* *often apprec* not like anything known before; new and perhaps clever; original: *a novel idea/suggestion*

nov-el-ette /,nɒvəl'et||,nɑː-/ *n* *often derog* a short, not very serious novel, *usu.* about love

nov-el-ist /'nɒvəlɪst||'nɑː-/ *n* a writer of novels: *a great novelist* | *a romantic novelist*

no-vel-la /nəʊ'velə/ *n* **novellas** or **novelle** /nəʊ'veliː/ a story between the length of a novel and a SHORT STORY

nov-el-ty /'nɒvəlti||'nɑː-/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being NOVEL²; interesting newness: *the novelty of his ideas* | *At first I enjoyed all the parties, but the novelty soon wore off.* **2** [C] something new, unusual, and interesting: *It was quite a novelty to spend my holidays working on a boat.* **3** [C *usu. pl.*] an unusual small cheap object, *usu.* not very useful but suitable to be given as a present: *a novelty pen* | *Christmas novelties*

No-vem-ber /nəʊ'vembəː, nə-/ (*written abbrev. Nov.*) *n* [C;U] the 11th month of the year, between October and December: *It happened on November the fifth/on the fifth of November/(AmE) on November fifth.* | *This office opened in November 1991.* | *He started work here last November/the November before last.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** November is a cold, often wet, month and in Britain is associated with FOG. In Britain, November 5th is GUY FAWKES NIGHT. In the US, the fourth Thursday in November is THANKSGIVING. ◀

nov-ice /'nɒvɪs||'nɑː-/ *n* **1** [(at)] a person with no experience in a skill or subject; beginner: *a novice swimmer* | *a novice at skiing* **2** a person who has recently joined a religious group to become a MONK or NUN

no-vi-ti-ate, -**ciate** /nəʊ'vɪfɪt, nə-, -fɪet||-'vɪfɪt/ *n tech* the period of being a novice, *esp.* in a religious group

no-vo-caine /'nəʊvəkeɪn/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a drug used for stopping pain during a small operation, *esp.* on the teeth

now ¹ /naʊ/ *adv* **1** *a* at this time; at present: *I had a headache this morning, but I'm all right now.* | *We used to live in Bristol but now we live in London.* | *A journey that used to take several weeks can now be made in a few hours.* *b* at the time just mentioned, e.g. in a story or an account of past events: *He opened the door. Now the noise was very loud.* **2** at the time just following the present; at once: *We've finished our dinner so now let's have some coffee.* | *Now for (=now we will have) the next question.* | *They'll be here any time now.* **3** *a* (used to introduce a statement or question): *Now, I don't know if you'll agree with this, but I'd like to make a suggestion.* *b* (used to add force to a command, warning, etc.): *Now then, what's going on here?* | *Be careful, now!* | *Now, now, stop crying!* —compare THERE³ **4** (used after an expression of time) calculating from or up to the present: *It hasn't been working properly for three weeks now.* | *It's now 27 years/It's 27 years now since he died.* **5** (every) **now and then/now and again** at times; sometimes: *She meets her old boyfriend for a drink now and then.* | *I like to visit art galleries now and again.* **6** **now ... now** sometimes ... and sometimes: *The market is very unstable, with prices now rising, now falling.*

now ² *n* [U] the present time or moment: *Now is the time to tell him the truth.* | *The time for action is now!* | *Up*

to/Until now we've had no problems. | He should have finished by now. | As of now/From now on (=starting now) the bank will close at 3.30 pm. | Goodbye for now.

now³ also **now that**— conj because (something has happened): *Now (that) John's arrived, we can begin.*

NOW /ˌen əʊ ˈdʌbəljuː/ the National Organization for Women, a large American organization started in 1966 which works for legal, economic, and social equality between men and women. Its first president was Betty Friedan.

now-a-days /ˈnaʊədeɪz/ *adv* (esp. in comparisons with the past) at the present time; in these modern times: *We used to listen to the radio a lot, but nowadays we mostly watch television.*

no way /ˌnəʊ ˈweɪ/ *adv, interj* *sl* no; certainly not: "Did you agree to work at the weekend?" "No way!" | *No way will we be finished by 5 o'clock.*

no-where /ˈnəʊweə/ *adv* **1** also **no place** *AmE infml*— not anywhere; (in, at, or to) no place: *The book was nowhere to be found.* | *The poor old man has nowhere to live.* | *There's nowhere else (=no other place) I really want to go to.* | (*fml*) *Nowhere are the effects of these policies more evident than in the inner cities.* | (*fig.*) *That kind of talk will get you nowhere.* (=won't do you any good) | *Five dollars goes nowhere now.* (=will hardly buy anything) | (*fig.*) *In the last few seconds of the race, Overt came from nowhere* (=from a seemingly hopeless position) *and won.* **2 nowhere near** not at all near or nearly: *She's nowhere near as clever as her sister.* | *We're nowhere near finding a cure yet.* —see SOMETHING (USAGE)

no-win sit-u-a-tion /ˌnəʊ ˈwɪn ˈsɪtʃuːən/ *n* a state of affairs which will end badly whichever choice one makes

no-wise /ˈnəʊwaɪz/ *adv* *lit* old use not at all

nox-ious /ˈnɒksɪəs/ *adj* *fml* or *tech* harmful; poisonous: *noxious fumes* | *noxious chemicals in the river water* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

noz-zle /ˈnɒzəl/ *n* a short tube fitted to the end of a HOSE, pipe, etc., to direct and control the stream of liquid or gas pouring out: *Point the nozzle of the fire extinguisher at the flames.*

NPR /ˌen piː ˈɑːr/ *abbrev. for:* NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

NRA /ˌen ɑːr ˈeɪ/ *abbrev. for:* **1** *AmE* NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION **2** *BrE* NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

NRC /ˌen ɑː ˈsɪz-ɑːr/ *abbrev. for* NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NSB /ˌen es ˈbiː/ *abbrev. for:* NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK

NSC /ˌen es ˈsɪz/ *abbrev. for:* NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

NSPCC /ˌen es ˈpiː sɪː ˈsɪz/ [*the*] National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; a British organization which looks after the interests of children who are being badly treated or are in danger of being harmed

NSU /ˌen es ˈjuː/ *n* [U] non-specific urethritis; an infection of the URETHRA —compare CYSTITIS

NT /ˌen ˈtiː/ *abbrev. for:* **1** NATIONAL THEATRE **2** NATIONAL TRUST

-n't /ənt/ *short for:* not: *hadn't* | *didn't* | *wouldn't* | *isn't* — see NOT (USAGE)

nth /enθ/ *adj* **1** (used to suggest a very large number): *I've reminded him for the nth time, but he still never remembers to do it.* **2 to the nth degree** *infml* as much as possible; extremely: *It was boring to the nth degree.*

nu-ance /ˈnjuːɑːns/ *n* a slight delicate difference in meaning, colour, etc.: *nuances of taste which are hard to describe* | *There is a nuance of greater uncertainty in "I might do it" than in "I may do it".*

nub /nʌb/ *n* **1** [(of) *usu. sing.*] the most important point; CRUX: *This is the nub of the argument/matter.* **2** rare a lump or piece

nu-bile /ˈnjuːbaɪl/ *adj* *fml* or *humor* (of a girl) young and sexually attractive: *his nubile companions*

nu-cle-ar /ˈnjuːkliə/ *adj* [*no comp.*] **1** of, concerning, or using NUCLEAR ENERGY **2** of or being a NUCLEUS: *nuclear fission* (=the breaking up of atoms)

nuclear bomb /ˌnjuːkliə ˈbɒm/ *n* a bomb which explodes because of the ATOMIC reactions inside it. Nuclear bombs are feared by people because of the terrible destruction they can cause.

nuclear ca-pa-bil-i-ty /ˌnjuːkliə ˈkæpəbɪlɪti/ *n* [U] the fact of whether

a country has NUCLEAR WEAPONS or not: *Iraq's nuclear capability was not known.*

nuclear ca-pa-ci-ty /ˌnjuːkliə ˈkæpəsiːti/ *n* [S] the number of NUCLEAR WEAPONS possessed by a country: *The enemy's nuclear capacity has risen over the last few months.*

nuclear dis-ar-ma-ment /ˌnjuːkliə ˈdɪsɑːmənt/ *n* [U] the giving up of NUCLEAR WEAPONS, either by agreement between nations (**multilateral disarmament**) or by a single nation on its own (**unilateral disarmament**)

nuclear en-er-gy /ˌnjuːkliə ˈɛnɜːdʒi/ *n* [U] the powerful force that is produced when the NUCLEUS (=central part) of an atom is either split or joined to another atom

nuclear fa-cil-i-ty /ˌnjuːkliə ˈfæsɪlɪti/ *n* a factory or other place where NUCLEAR WEAPONS might be made

nuclear fam-i-ly /ˌnjuːkliə ˈfæmɪli/ *n* a family unit that consists only of husband, wife, and children, without grandmothers, uncles, etc. —compare EXTENDED FAMILY

nuclear fis-sion /ˌnjuːkliə ˈfɪʃən/ also **fission**— *n* [U] the splitting of the NUCLEUS (centre) of an atom, which results in much power being RELEASED (let go). Nuclear fission is used in NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

nuclear-free /ˌnjuːkliə ˈfriː/ *adj* (of places) in which the use, carrying, and storing of NUCLEAR materials is not allowed: *a nuclear-free zone*

nuclear fu-sion /ˌnjuːkliə ˈfjuːʒən/ also **fusion**— *n* [C;U] a NUCLEAR reaction in which the nuclei (NUCLEUS) of light atoms join with the nuclei of heavier atoms. Nuclear fusion may be used in bombs, such as the HYDROGEN BOMB.

nuclear in-dus-try /ˌnjuːkliə ˈɪndʌstri/ *n* a branch of industry which produces machinery and FUEL¹ connected with the use of nuclear power, and/or NUCLEAR WEAPONS: *The nuclear industry is strongly in favour of the phasing-out of coal-fired power stations.*

nuclear phys-i-cist /ˌnjuːkliə ˈfɪzɪst/ *n* a person who studies or works in nuclear physics

nuclear phys-ics /ˌnjuːkliə ˈfɪzɪks/ *n* [U] the branch of PHYSICS which is concerned with the structure and properties of the NUCLEUS (=central part) of atoms

nuclear pow-er /ˌnjuːkliə ˈpaʊə/ *n* [U] power, usu. electricity, from NUCLEAR ENERGY

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Many people worry about the risks associated with nuclear power, and do not want more nuclear power stations to be built. They worry about accidents such as the one at Chernobyl, and about the safe disposal of RADIOACTIVE waste products. They also fear that people, esp. children, living near nuclear processing plants have a great risk of getting some kinds of CANCER. Some people feel that the nuclear industry and the government do not always tell the truth about nuclear power. ◀

nuclear re-ac-tion /ˌnjuːkliə ˈriːʃən/ *n* a process in which the parts of the NUCLEUS (=centre) of an atom are rearranged to form new substances —see FISSION, FUSION; compare CHEMICAL REACTION

nuclear re-ac-tor /ˌnjuːkliə ˈriːəktə/ also **reactor, atomic pile**— *n* a large machine that produces NUCLEAR ENERGY, esp. as a means of producing electricity

Nuclear Reg-u-la-to-ry Com-mis-sion /ˌnjuːkliə ˈrɛɡjʊlətɔːri kəmɪʃən/ (*abbrev. for:* NRC) an American government organization that checks on the safety of NUCLEAR power stations

nuclear re-pro-ces-sing /ˌnjuːkliə ˈriːprəʊsɪŋ/ *n* [U] a process in which waste from NUCLEAR POWER stations is cleaned so that some of it may be used again

nuclear sub-ma-rine /ˌnjuːkliə ˈsʌbməriːn/ *n* a submarine (=a ship which can stay under water) which is driven by power from a nuclear reactor

nuclear war /ˌnjuːkliə ˈwɔː/ *n* [C;U] a war fought using nuclear weapons: *all-out nuclear war*

nuclear waste /ˌnjuːkliə ˈweɪst/ *n* [U] waste material which is RADIOACTIVE, esp. used FUEL¹ from NUCLEAR REACTORS: *the problem of nuclear waste disposal*

a mushroom cloud
from a
nuclear explosion



nuclear weap-on /ˌnuːkliəˈwɛpən/ *n* a very powerful weapon which uses atomic power to cause mass destruction and death

nuclear win-ter /ˌnuːkliəˈwɪntər/ *n* the period which, according to many scientists, would follow a nuclear war or a large nuclear explosion, when there would be no light, warmth, or growth because the sun would be hidden by dust

nu-cle-ic ac-id /ˌnjuːkliˈækɪd/ *n* [U] see DNA, RNA

nu-cle-us /ˌnjuːkliəs/ *n* **-clei** /ˌkliː/ **1** the central part of an atom, made up of NEUTRONS, PROTONS, and other ELEMENTARY PARTICLES **2** the central part of almost all cells of living matter —see picture at CELL **3** an original or central point, part, or group inside a larger thing, group, organization, etc.: *These 100 books will form the nucleus of the new school library.*

nude /njuːd/ *adj* **1** not wearing clothes; NAKED **2** [A no comp.] of, for, or by people not wearing clothes: *a nude party | a nude beach | nude swimming*

nude *n* **1** [C] (a piece of art showing) a person, usu. a woman, without clothes **2** [the] the state of being nude: *They went swimming in the nude.*

nudge /nʌdʒ/ *v* **1** [T] to push gently, usu. with one's elbow, esp. in order to call a person's attention: *He nudged his friend to let him know it was time to leave.* **2** [I+adv/prep; T] to move by gently pushing: *He nudged me out of the way. | a ship nudging (its way) through the ice | (fig.) During the meeting we tried to nudge them towards (=gently help them to find) a practical solution.* **3** **nudge, nudge, (wink, wink)** *infml* humor a phrase, first used in the British television programme *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, used when suggesting that there may be a sexual meaning to something that someone has just said —**nudge** *n*

nud-is-m /ˌnjuːdɪzəm/ *n* [U] the practice of being nude as much as possible, esp. in a group, in a special holiday camp, and for reasons of health —**ist** *adj*, *n*: *a nudist camp | a beach for nudists*

nu-di-ty /ˌnjuːdɪti/ *n* [U] the state of being nude: *a lot of nudity in recent films*

nu-ga-to-ry /ˌnjuːgətəri/ *adj* *fml* without value; TRIFLING

nug-get /ˌnʌɡɪt/ *n* [(of)] a small rough lump of a precious metal, found in the earth: *a gold nugget | (fig.) nuggets of information/wisdom*

nuisance /ˌnjuːsəns/ *n* **1** a person, thing, or situation that causes annoyance or inconvenience: *Sit down, and stop being a nuisance/making a nuisance of yourself. | What a nuisance! I've forgotten my ticket. | It was a nuisance having to go back home to get my ticket.* **2** *law* the use of a place or property in a way that causes public annoyance (esp. in the phrase **Commit no nuisance**, on a notice in a public place)

nuisance val-ue /ˌnuːsənsˈvæljuː/ *n* [S; U] the quality of being valuable as a cause of trouble and inconvenience to one's opponents: *A small political group may not be able to defeat the government, but it may still have some/a certain nuisance value.*

NUJ /ˌen juː ˈdʒeɪ/ *abbrev. for*: NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS

nuke /njuːk/ *v* [T] *infml* to attack with NUCLEAR weapons

nuke *n* *infml* a NUCLEAR weapon

null /nʌl/ *adj* [A no comp.] *tech* of, being, or concerning zero: *a null result (=one giving the answer 0) | a null set/sequence*

null and void /ˌnʌl ˈvɔɪd/ *adj* [F] *fml* or *law* having no legal force; INVALID: *The court declared the contract null and void.*

null-li-fy /ˌnʌlɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] *fml* or *law* **1** to cause or declare to have no legal force: *a claim nullified by the court* **2** to cause to have no effect or value; NEGATE: *a rise in prices nullifying a rise in wages* —**fi-cation** /ˌnʌlɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

null-li-ty /ˌnʌlɪti/ *n* *fml* or *law* **1** [U] (esp. of a marriage) the state of being null and void in law: *a decree of nullity* —see also ANNUL **2** [U] nothingness: *a feeling of the nullity of life* **3** [C] rare a NONENTITY

null set /ˌnʌl ˈset/ also **empty set** — *n* *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) a SET³ (10) with no members, usu. written { }

NUM /ˌen juː ˈem/ *abbrev. for*: NATIONAL UNION OF MINEWORKERS

numb /nʌm/ *adj* [(with)] (of part of the body) unable to feel anything: *My hands are numb with (=because of) cold. | The anaesthetic made my arm go numb. | (fig.) numb with shock/fear* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

numb *v* [T often pass.] to cause to feel nothing or no pain; make numb: *fingers numbed with cold | the numbing effect of the drug | He was numbed by his wife's death.*

num-ber /ˌnʌmbə/ *n* **1** [C] (a written sign representing) a member of the system used in counting and measuring: *1, 2, and 3 are numbers. | Choose any number between one and ten. | What is your phone number? | Six is my lucky number.* —see also CARDINAL NUMBER, ORDINAL NUMBER **2** [C] (*written abbrev. No., no., or (esp. AmE) #*) a number used to show the position of something in an ordered set or list: *a number 9 (=size 9) shoe | We live at no. 107 Church Street. (=our house has the number 107) | question number four* —see also NUMBER ONE, BOX NUMBER, E NUMBER **3** [C (of); U] also **numbers** *pl.* — (a) quantity or amount: *Large numbers of/A large number of vehicles had to be abandoned because of the heavy snow. | This killing brings the number of deaths this year to 25. | The governing party, though few in number, held all the power. | a small number of/small numbers of visitors | A number of (=several) well-qualified people have recently left the company. | efforts to reduce the number(s) of people in prison | I've told you any number of times (=very often) to shut the door. | grains of sand beyond number (=too many to count) **4** [S] a group of people: *The whole school went on a trip to France, but only three of our number could speak French.* **5** [C] *BrE* || *issue* *AmE* a (copy of a) magazine printed at a particular time; *ISSUE: the latest number of "Vogue" magazine | back (=past) numbers of "Punch"* **6** [C] a piece of music (esp. popular music or JAZZ), usu. forming part of a longer performance: *She sang several numbers from her latest album.* **7** [C *usu. sing.*] *infml* a piece of clothing, esp. a woman's dress: *a chic little black number for evening wear* **8** [C *usu. sing.*] *infml* any person, object, situation, etc., of the stated type: *That new job of hers is a real cushy number. (=something very easy) | That new waitress sure is a hot number. (=very attractive)* **9** [U] *tech* change in the form of words, esp. (in English) of nouns and verbs, depending on whether one or more than one thing is talked about: *"Horses" is plural in number, "horse" is singular.* **10** *have someone's number* *infml* to have knowledge about someone, esp. when useful in annoying or defeating them: *Our team couldn't do anything right: the opposing team had their number.* **11** *someone's number is up/has come up* *infml* it is someone's turn, esp. to suffer, be punished, etc. —see also NUMBERS, OPPOSITE NUMBER*

▷ **USAGE** Usually plural nouns after a number take a plural verb: *73 dogs/people are coming*, but if you are giving an opinion about the size of the number itself, use a singular verb. Compare *25 bottles of wine were drunk at the office party* and *£25 pounds is too much to pay.* —see also AMOUNT (USAGE)◀

number *v* **1** [T] to give a number to: *They forgot to number the pages. | All seats in the theatre are numbered. [+obj+n] Number the questions (from) 1 to 10. | a numbering system* **2** [I+prep; L+n] to reach as a total; be in number: *The people at the meeting numbered several thousand/numbered in the thousands.* **3** [I; T (among, as, with)] *fml* to include or be included as one of a particular group: *He numbers/is numbered among the best modern writers. | I'm glad to number her with my friends/as a friend.* **4** [T] *poet* to find the number of; count: *Who can number the stars?* —see also **his/her/its days are numbered** (DAYS¹)

number off *BrE* || **count off** *AmE* — *phr v* [I] (in military use) to call out one's number when one's turn comes: *The soldiers numbered off from left to right.*

number crunch-er /ˌnʌmbəˈkrʌʃər/ *n* *infml* a person or machine that works with numbers, such as an ACCOUNTANT, ECONOMIST, or STATISTICIAN

number crunch-ing /ˌnʌmbəˈkrʌʃɪŋ/ *n* [U] the process of working with numbers and calculating many results: *Financial analysts spend their days number crunching.* —**number-crunching** *adj*: *number-crunching computers used by statisticians*

Number 11 /ˌnʌmbər ɪˈlevən/ see NO. 11

num-ber-less /'nʌmbələs||-bər-/ *adj esp. lit* too many to count: *numberless possibilities*

number one /,nʌm bəʊn/ *n* [U] **1** *informal* oneself and no one else: *She only ever thinks of number one.* (=herself) **2** the most important person or thing: *George is number one in this organization and I'm his number two.* (=second in command) | *Solving this problem is our number one priority.* [after *n*] *public enemy number one*

num-ber-plate /'nʌmbəpleɪt||-ər-/ *BrE* || **license plate** *AmE* || **registration plate** *AustrE, NZE*— *n* either of the signs on a vehicle (usu. at the front and back ends), showing its REGISTRATION NUMBER—see picture at CAR, and note at LICENSE PLATE

num-bers /'nʌmbəz||-ərz/ *n* **1** [P;U] the study of ARITHMETIC **2** [U] the state of having more supporters, soldiers, etc., than an opponent (esp. in the phrases **by sheer force/weight of numbers**): *Our small army was defeated by sheer weight of numbers.* **3** [*the*+S] (in the US) a usu. ILLEGAL game in which people risk money on the appearance of a combination of numbers in a newspaper: *to play the numbers* | *the numbers game*

Number 10 /,nʌmbə 'ten||-bər-/ see NO. 10

numb-skull /'nʌmskʌl/ *n* a NUMSKULL

nu-me-ral /'nju:mərəl||'nu:z-/ *n* a sign that represents a number—see also ARABIC NUMERAL, ROMAN NUMERAL—**numeral** *adj*

nu-me-rate /'nju:məreɪt||'nu:z-/ *adj esp. BrE* having a general understanding of calculations with numbers; able to do ARITHMETIC and MATHEMATICS—opposite **innumerate**; compare LITERATE—**racy** *n* [U]

nu-me-ra-tion /,nju:mə'reɪʃən||'nu:z-/ *n* [C;U] *tech* a system or the process of counting

nu-me-ra-tor /'nju:məreɪtə||'nu:z-/ *n tech* the number above the line in a FRACTION: *2 is the numerator in $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{(x+y)}$* —compare DENOMINATOR

nu-mer-i-cal /nju:'merɪkəl||'nu:z-/ *adj* of or using numbers: *numerical ability* (=skill with numbers) | *a numerical code* | *Their army has numerical superiority over ours* (=is greater in numbers) *but it is less well trained.*—**ly** /kli/ *adv*: *numerically greater*

nu-me-rol-o-gy /,nju:mə'rolədʒi||,nu:mə'ra:z-/ *n* [U] the study of the magic meaning of numbers. This is not taken seriously by most people, but is used as a game or amusement, e.g. to give a meaning to the dates in a person's life, or to use the numerical value of the letters in their name as a guide to their character or future.

nu-me-ro u-no /,nu:mərəʊ 'u:nəʊ/ *n AmE* NUMBER ONE, esp. sense (2)

nu-me-rous /'nju:mərəs||'nu:z-/ *adj* *rather formal* many: *numerous reasons* | *for reasons too numerous to mention*—**ly** *adv*—**ness** *n* [U]

nu-mi-nous /'nju:mɪnəs||'nu:z-/ *adj* *tech* or *lit* causing or filled with a sense of the presence of God; holy and mysterious—**ness** *n* [U]

nu-mis-mat-ics /,nju:mɪz'mætɪks||,nu:z-/ *n* [U] *tech* or *formal* the study or collection of coins, money, and MEDALS; coin-collecting—**numismatic** *adj* [A]: *an old penny of great numismatic value*—**ist** /nju:'mɪzmətɪst||'nu:z-/ *n*

num-skull, **numbskull** /'nʌmskʌl/ *n* *informal* a stupid person: *Can't you see what you've done, you numskull?*

nun /nʌn/ *n* a member of an all-female religious group who live together in a CONVENT and wear a long dress (HABIT) and also a head covering. Nuns do not get married, thinking of themselves as being married to Jesus Christ, and they lead a very severe and demanding religious life, working and praying together, often also helping other people by nursing or teaching.—compare MONK

nun-ci-o /'nʌnsiəʊ/ *n* -**cios** a representative of the Pope in a foreign country

nun-ne-ry /'nʌnəri/ *n* *esp. lit* a building in which nuns live together; CONVENT—compare MONASTERY

NUPE /'nju:pi/ *abbrev. for*: NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

nup-tial /'nʌpfəl/ *adj* [A] *pomp* or *tech* of marriage or the marriage ceremony: *the nuptial day* | *a nuptial mass* | (*humor*) *nuptial bliss*

nup-tials /'nʌpfəlz/ *n* [P] *pomp* a wedding: *The nuptials were performed by the local priest.*

NUR /,en ju: 'ɑ:ɪ/ *abbrev. for*: NATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYMEN

Nu-rem-berg /'njuərəm bɜ:zɡ||'nʊrəmbɜ:rg/ a city in Bavaria, Germany (formerly in W Germany), known for its associations with the Nazis. From 1933–38 the Nazis held their party meetings there each year, and in 1945–46 the Nazi war criminals were tried there (**the Nuremberg trials**) and some were given death sentences.

Nu-re-yev /'njuəriɛf, nju'reɪɛf||'nʊ'reɪɛf/, **Ru-dolf** /'ru:ɔldf||-dɑ:lf/ (1938–93) an Austrian dancer, born in Russia, who came to the West in 1961 and worked with the Royal Ballet, and esp. with Margot Fonteyn. He was known as a great CLASSICAL dancer but also worked in MODERN DANCE.

nurse¹ /nɜ:s||nɜ:rs/ *n* **1** a person, typically a woman, who is trained to take care of sick, hurt, or old people, esp. as directed by a doctor in a hospital: *Our daughter is a nurse.* | *a student nurse* (=a person learning to be a nurse) | *a male nurse* | *a private nurse taking care of him at home* | *Nurse Jones* | *Nurse will do it.* | *Thank you, Nurse.*—see LANGUAGE NOTE: Addressing People

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain, nurses are very well liked. The popular image of a nurse is of a young woman who is hardworking, caring, and badly-paid. They are sometimes called “angels”. ◀

2 a woman employed to take care of a young child; NANNY—see also WET NURSE

nurse² *v* **1** [T] **a** to take care of as or like a nurse: *He nursed her back to health.* | *She spends her time nursing her old father.* | (fig.) *He nursed the company through a difficult period.* **b** to try to cure: *I stayed in bed and nursed my cold.* **2** [I] to be a professional nurse: *She spent some time nursing in a military hospital.* | *to take up nursing* (=become a nurse) **3** [I (at);T] **a** (of a baby) to suck milk from a woman's breast: *nursing at its mother's breast* **b** (of a woman) to feed (a baby) with milk from the breast: *a nursing mother*—compare BREAST-FEED, SUCKLE **4** [T] to hold lovingly: *a child nursing a kitten* | *He nursed his glass of beer all evening.* (=kept it in his hand without drinking it) **5** [T] *informal* to handle carefully so as to preserve, keep going, etc.: *He nursed his delicate plants.* | *They nursed the damaged plane home.* **6** [T] to hold (a feeling, esp. a bad feeling) in the mind: *She still nursed a grudge against* (=continued to feel anger towards) *her husband's new wife.* | *to nurse a hope*

nurse-ling /'nɜ:slɪŋ||'nɜ:rs-/ *n* *old use* a NURSING

nurse-maid /'nɜ:smeɪd||'nɜ:rs-/ *n* a NURSE¹ (2)

nur-se-ry /'nɜ:səri||'nɜ:r-/ *n* **1** also **day nursery**, **day care center** *AmE*—a place where small children, but not usu. babies, are taken care of while their parents are at work, etc.—compare CRECHE (1), NURSERY SCHOOL, PLAYGROUP **2** *esp. old use* a small child's bedroom or playroom in a private house **3** also **nursery garden** /'... ,-/—*BrE* an area where plants and trees are grown to be sold or planted in other places

nur-se-ry-man /'nɜ:səri:mən||'nɜ:r-/ *n* -**men** /mən/ a person who grows plants in a plant nursery

nursery nurse /'... ,-/ *n* *BrE* a nurse who works with, and has taken a special course in the care of, young children

nursery rhyme /'... ,-/ also **Mother Goose rhyme** *esp. AmE*—*n* a short usu. old and well-known song or poem for small children

nursery school /'... ,-/ *n* [C;U] a school for young children of two or three to five years of age, where the children learn such things as numbers, letters, colours, etc., and may begin to read and write—compare KINDERGARTEN, NURSERY (1), PLAYGROUP and see also extra information on page 408

nursery slope /'... ,-/ *n* a gentle mountain slope where people of any age are first taught how to SKI²

nurs-ing /'nɜ:sɪŋ||'nɜ:r-/ *n* [U] the work of being a hospital nurse: *a career in nursing*

nursing home /'... ,-/ *n* **1** a usu. private establishment where people (esp. old people) who cannot take care of themselves can live and be looked after **2** *BrE* a small private hospital

► **CULTURAL NOTE** It is common in the US and Britain for people to put their parents in a nursing home when the parents are too old or ill to take care of themselves. ◀

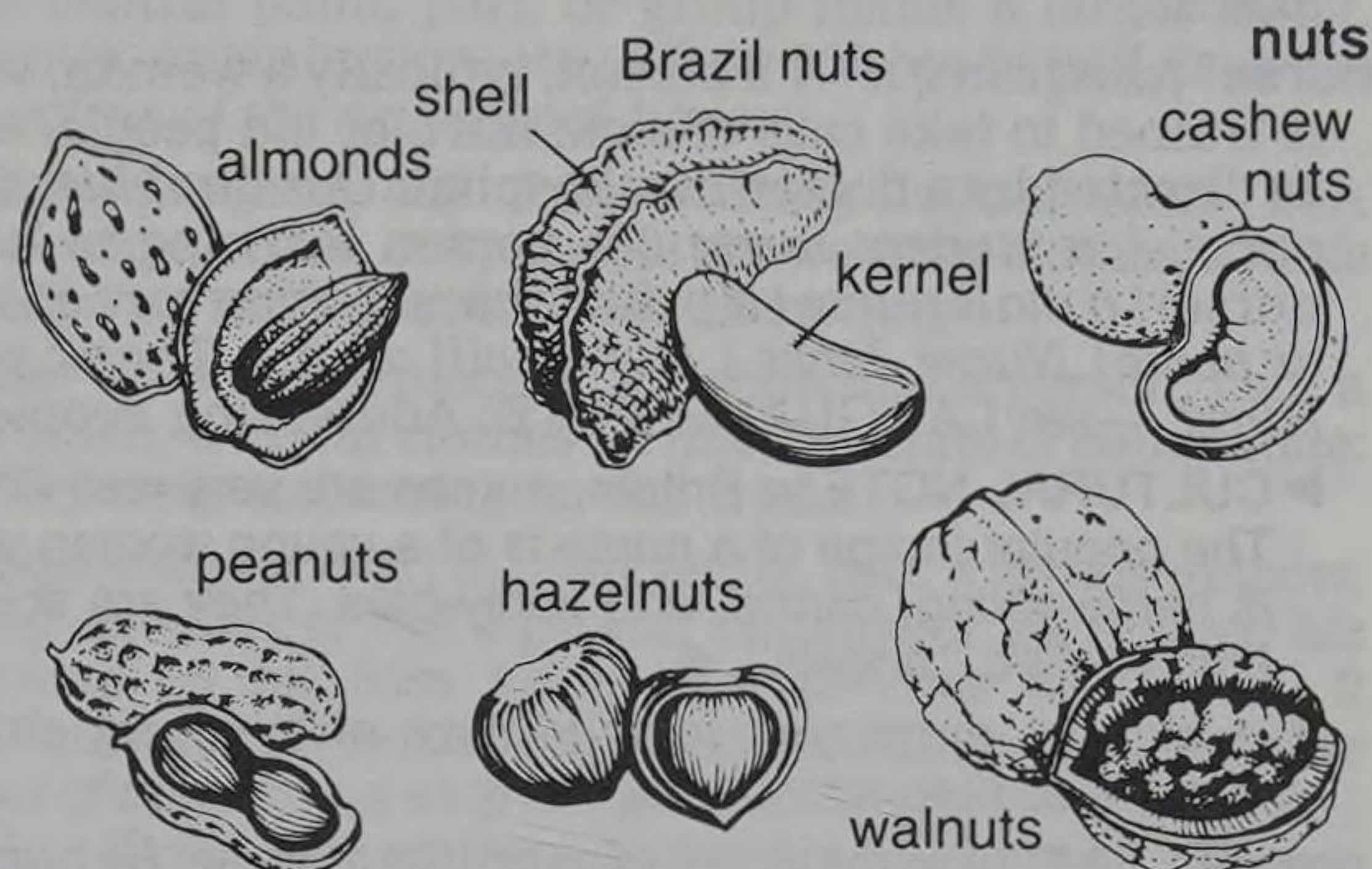
nursing moth-er /ˌnɜːsɪŋ ˈmʌðər/ *n* a mother who is breast-feeding her child

nurs-ling, **nurseling** /ˈnɜːslɪŋ/ *n* *old use* a baby who is being fed from the breast, or taken care of by a nurse

nur-ture¹ /ˈnɜːtʃər/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* education, training, and care (given e.g. by parents), *esp.* as these concern development

nurture² *v* [T often pass.] *lit* 1 to give care and food to: *nurtured by loving parents* | *plants nurtured in the greenhouse* 2 to cause or encourage to develop: *ideas that are nurtured in the universities* | *nurturing a hatred*

NUS /ˌen juː ˈes/ *abbrev. for:* NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS



nut /nʌt/ *n* 1 **a** a dry fruit with a **KERNEL** (=seed) surrounded by a hard **SHELL**: *to crack open/shell a nut* **b** this seed, which can be eaten 2 a small piece of metal with a hole through it for screwing onto a **BOLT** in order to fix or fasten something —see picture at **BOLT** 3 *infml* a person who is or seems to be mad: *He's a bit of a nut.* 4 *infml* a person who is very keen on the stated thing; **FREAK**: *She's a Clark Gable nut: she's seen all his films.* 5 *infml* one's head: *You must be off your nut!* (=mad) 6 [*usu. pl.*] *BrE* a small lump of coal 7 [*usu. pl.*] *taboo sl, esp. AmE* a **TESTICLE** 8 **a hard/tough nut to crack** *infml* a difficult question, person, etc., to deal with 9 **do one's nut** *BrE sl* to suddenly become very angry or worried: *I told him what she had said about him and he did his nut.* 10 **for nuts** *BrE infml* (*esp. after can't*) at all: *She can't sing for nuts!* —see also **NUTS**, **NUTS AND BOLTS**, **GINGER NUT**

NUT /ˌen juː ˈtɪz/ *abbrev. for:* National Union of Teachers

nut-brown /ˌnʌt ˈbraʊn/ *adj lit* having a pleasant dark red-brown colour: *nut-brown ale/complexion*

nut-case /ˈnʌtkeɪs/ *n infml* *humor* a mad person; **NUT** (3)

nut-crack-er /ˈnʌt ˈkrækər/ also **nutcrackers** *pl.* — *n* a tool for cracking the shell of a nut: *Have we got a nutcracker/a pair of nutcrackers in the house?*

Nutcracker, The the title of a **BALLET** (1), with music (the **Nutcracker Suite**) written by the **COMPOSER** Tchaikovsky in 1892

nut-house /ˈnʌthaʊs/ *n -houses* /ˌhaʊzɪz/ *sl for* **PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL**

nut-meg /ˈnʌtmeg/ *n* 1 [C] a small hard seed of a tropical tree, which is *usu.* made into a powder used (as a **SPICE**) to give a particular taste to food 2 [U] this powder: *a pinch of nutmeg*

Nu-tra-Sweet /ˈnjuːtrə swiːt/ *tdmk* an artificial sweetener, used, *esp.* in drinks, instead of sugar

nu-tri-a /ˈnjuːtriə/ *n* [U] (the fur of the) **COYPU**: *a nutria coat*

nu-tri-ent /ˈnjuːtriənt/ *n, adj, tech* (a chemical or food) providing what is needed for life and growth: *This soil contains valuable nutrients.*

nu-tri-ment /ˈnjuːtrɪmənt/ *n* [U] *fml* food needed for life and growth; **NOURISHMENT**

nu-tri-tion /njuːˈtriʃən/ *n* [U] the process of giving or getting food; **NOURISHMENT**: *Good nutrition is essential for good health.* | *the science of nutrition* —see also **MAL-NUTRITION**

nu-tri-tion-ist /njuːˈtriʃənɪst/ *n* a person with special knowledge about foods and how they affect health, growth, and disease

nu-tri-tious /njuːˈtriʃəs/ *adj* valuable to the body as food; nourishing (**NOURISH**): *Milk is very nutritious.* | *a nutritious meal* — *~ly adv*

nu-tri-tive /ˈnjuːtrɪtɪv/ *adj* 1 [*no comp.*] *fml or tech* of nutrition: *What is the nutritive value of potatoes?* 2 *fml* nutritious

nuts¹ /nʌts/ *adj* [F] *infml* 1 mad; **CRAZY**: *I'll go nuts if I have to wait much longer!* 2 [+on/about/over] very keen on: *She's nuts about flying/the boy next door.*

nuts² *interj sl, esp. AmE* (an expression of annoyance, anger, or fearless refusal): *Nuts to you and your friends!*

nuts and bolts /ˌnʌts ˈənd ˈbɒlz/ *n* [(the) P] the simple facts or skills of a subject or job: *to learn the nuts and bolts of cooking*

nut-shell /ˈnʌt-ʃel/ *n* 1 the hard outer covering of a nut 2 **in a nutshell** *infml* described in as few words as possible: *There's a lot I could say about the show but to put it in a nutshell, it was terrible.*

nut-ty /ˈnʌti/ *adj* 1 **a** tasting like nuts: *wine with a nutty taste* **b** filled with nuts: *a nutty cake* 2 *sl* mad; **CRAZY**: *another of his nutty ideas* | *She's as nutty as a fruitcake.* (=completely mad) — *-tiness n* [U]

Nuuk /nuːk/ the capital city and main port of Greenland (formerly called Godthaab)

nuz-zle /ˈnʌzəl/ *v* 1 [I;T (UP, AGAINST)] (*esp. of an animal*) to rub, touch, or push gently with the nose: *The horse nuzzled (up) against me.* | *The dog nuzzled the sleeping child.* 2 [T+obj+adv/prep] to press close, *usu.* with repeated short movements: *She nuzzled her head against his shoulder.*

NV *written abbrev. for:* NEVADA

NW *written abbrev. for:* northwest(ern)

NY *written abbrev. for:* NEW YORK (City or State)

NYC *written abbrev. for:* NEW YORK CITY

Nye-re-re /njəˈreəri/, **Jul-i-us** /ˈdʒuːliəs/ (1922–) a Tanzanian **SOCIALIST** politician. He became **PRIME MINISTER** of Tanganyika in 1961 and helped to bring about its union with Zanzibar to form the new republic of Tanzania. He was Tanzania's first president from 1964 to 1985, and became head of the Organization of African Unity in 1984.

ny-lon /ˈnaɪlɒn/ *n* [U] a strong man-made substance made into cords, plastics, and material for clothes: *nylon thread/thread made of nylon* | *a nylon shirt*

ny-lons /ˈnaɪlɒnz/ *n* [P] women's nylon **STOCKINGS**: *a pair of nylons*

nymph /nɪmf/ *n* 1 (in **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**) any of the less important goddesses of nature, represented as young girls living in trees, streams, mountains, etc. 2 *lit* a girl or young woman

nym-phet /nɪmˈfet/, *nimfɪt* *nimˈfet* *n humor* a young girl of about 10–14 years old, regarded as sexually desirable; the word became popular after it was used in Vladimir Nabokov's book *Lolita*.

nym-pho-ma-ni-a /ˌnɪmfəˈmeɪniə/ *n not tech* [U] strong sexual desire in a woman to a degree considered as unhealthy or socially unacceptable

nym-pho-ma-ni-ac /ˌnɪmfəˈmeɪniæk/ also **nym-pho** /ˈnɪmfəʊ/ *sl—adj, n, derog* (of or being) a woman with nymphomania

NYSE /ˌen waɪ ˈes/ *abbrev. for:* NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

NZ *written abbrev. for:* NEW ZEALAND

O

O, o /əʊ/ **O's, o's or Os, os** **1** the 15th letter of the English alphabet **2** (in speech) a zero — see ZERO (USAGE) **3** one of the major blood groups

o /əʊ/ *interj esp. poet (usu. cap.)* OH: *O wild West Wind!*

o' /ə/ *prep lit or old use* **1** of **2** on

oaf /əʊf/ *n* a stupid ungraceful person, esp. male: *You clumsy oaf!* — **ish** *adj* — **ishly** *adv* — **ishness** *n* [U]

oak /əʊk/ *n* **1** [C] a large tree with hard wood, common in northern countries: *an ancient oak (tree)* — see picture at TREE **2** [U] the wood of this: *an oak door* | *polished oak* **3** **great oaks from little acorns grow saying** small things can grow into very big things over time

oak-en /'əʊkən/ *adj* [A] *esp. lit* made of oak

Oak-ley /'əʊkli/, **An-nie** /'æni/ (1860–1926) an American SHARPSHOOTER, member of Buffalo Bill's **Wild West Show**. The musical show and film, *Annie Get Your Gun*, is loosely based on her life and character.

Oaks /əʊks/ [*the*] a horse race held every year at Epsom, for three-year-old female horses

oa-kum /'əʊkəm/ *n* [U] small pieces of old rope used for filling up small holes in the sides of wooden ships

OAP /,əʊ eɪ 'piː/ *n* BrE old age pensioner; a person who is old enough to receive an OLD AGE PENSION from the state. In Britain, this means a woman over 60 or a man over 65: *Tickets are £6, or £3 for students and OAPs.* — compare SENIOR CITIZEN

oar /ɔːr/ *n* **1** a long pole with a wide flat blade at one end, used for rowing a boat, usu. while held in position by ROWLOCKS on the boat: *He pulled hard on the oars.* **2** BrE **put/shove/stick one's oar in** *infml* to give opinions about other people's affairs without being asked to: *This is our business — nobody asked you to stick your oar in!*

oar-lock /'ɔːlək||'ɔːrlək/ *n* AmE for ROWLOCK

oars-man /'ɔːzmən||'ɔːrz-/ **oars-wom-an** /-,wʊmən/fem. — *n* -men /mən/ a person who rows a boat, esp. in races

oars-man-ship /'ɔːzmənʃɪp||'ɔːrz-/ *n* [U] skill in rowing

OAS /,əʊ eɪ 'es/ [*the*] the Organization of American States; its members include the US and most Latin American countries, who work together on social, political, and economic matters

OASDHI /,əʊ eɪ 'es ,diː eɪtʃ 'aɪ/ old age, survivors, disability, and hospital insurance; the SOCIAL SECURITY insurance programme provided by the American government to people who have worked in the US for a certain number of years. The programme provides PENSIONS (money for old people who have stopped working), money for people who have been permanently injured (INJURE), and MEDICARE.

o-a-sis /əʊ'eɪsɪs/ *n* -ses /sɪz/ **1** a place with water and trees in a desert: *The caravan stopped for the night at an oasis.* **2** a place or situation that is different from its surroundings, usu. in a pleasant or comforting way: *Her bedroom is an oasis of calm in the noisy house.*

oast house /'əʊst haʊs/ *n* BrE a building, usu. with a pointed top, for drying HOPS (=the plant used in making beer)

oat-cake /'əʊtkeɪk/ *n* a flat cake made of oatmeal

Oates /əʊts/, **Laur-ence** /'lɒrəns||'lɔː-/ (1880–1912) a British EXPLORER (also known by his NICKNAME, Titus Oates), who went with Scott on his journey to the South Pole, and on the way back, suffering from FROSTBITE, he went out into the snow to die rather than delay the other members of the team. The words he used, "I may be gone some time" are now often said humorously by someone about to do something dangerous or uncertain.

oath /əʊθ/ *n* **oaths** /əʊðz/ **1** a solemn promise: *to swear an oath* | *Repeat the oath after me.* **2** an expression of strong feeling using religious or sexual words improperly: *oaths and curses* **3** **be on/under oath** *law* to have made a solemn promise to tell the truth: *The judge reminded the witness that she was under oath.* **4** **take the oath** to make a solemn promise to tell the truth in a court of law

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain and the US the oath is a religious promise. The person taking the oath holds or touches a Bible and promises to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth". Someone who does not wish to make a religious promise may AFFIRM (= make a solemn promise, but without mentioning God or using a Bible). Everyone who gives EVIDENCE must take the oath or affirm; if they then tell a lie they can be charged with PERJURY. — see also HIPPOCRATIC OATH ◀

oat-meal /'əʊtmɪl/ *n* [U] **1** crushed oats used for making cakes and PORRIDGE **2** AmE for PORRIDGE

oats /əʊts/ *n* [P] **1** a grain that provides food for people and animals — see picture at CEREAL **2** OATMEAL **3** **be off one's oats** BrE *infml* to have lost the wish to eat **4** **feel one's oats** *infml* to feel full of life and ready for action — see also WILD OATS

OAU /,əʊ eɪ 'juː/ [*the*] Organization of African Unity; an organization which aims to end COLONIALISM in Africa, and agree on political, economic, defence and health plans etc. among member countries

ob-du-rate /'ɒbdʒʊreɪt||'ɑːbdə-/ *adj fml, usu. derog* refusing to change one's beliefs or feelings, esp. in spite of people's attempts to persuade one; STUBBORN: *Despite all my pleas she remained obdurate.* — **ly** *adv* — **racy** *n* [U]

OBE /,əʊ bɪ 'iː/ *n* Order of the British Empire; an honour given to someone as a title, to thank them or show respect for the work they have done in various fields, including sport, entertainment, politics, business, etc.. The MEDAL marking the title is given by the Queen in a special ceremony: *John Smith, OBE* | *You deserve an OBE/to be given/awarded an OBE.*

o-be-di-ent /ə'biːdiənt/ *adj* [(to)] doing what one is ordered to do; willing to obey the orders of someone in a position of power, such as a parent or teacher: *an obedient dog/child* — opposite **disobedient** — **ly** *adv* — **ence** *n* [U (to)]

o-bei-sance /əʊ'beɪsəns/ *n* [C;U (to)] *fml* a show of respect and obedience, esp. by bending the head or upper part of the body: *He made a deep obeisance to the queen.*

ob-e-lisk /'ɒbəɪlɪsk||'ɑː-, 'əʊ-/ *n* **1** a tall pointed stone PILLAR built usu. in honour of a person or event **2** (in printing) a DAGGER (2)

O-ber-am-mer-gau /,əʊbər'æməgəʊ||-mər-/ a town in Bavaria, Germany, known for the PASSION PLAYS, held every ten years since 1634 as a way of giving thanks for being saved from the Black Death

O-be-ron /'əʊbərən||-rɑːn/ the king of the fairies (FAIRY) and the husband of Titania in Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

o-bese /əʊ'biːs/ *adj fml* very fat; unhealthily fat — see FAT (USAGE) — **obesity** *n* [U]

o-bey /əʊ'beɪ, ə-/ *v* **1** [I;T] to do what one is told to do (by someone in a position of power), or act in accordance with (orders, laws, etc.): *Soldiers are expected to obey (their officers/their orders) without question.* | *to obey the law* **2** **She who must be obeyed** *infml* humor a phrase used for a woman (for example, one's wife) who one does not wish or dare to displease: "Are you coming for a drink tonight?" "Better not. *She who must be obeyed* wants to go to the pictures." — opposite **disobey**

ob-fus-cate /'ɒbfəsket||'ɑːb-/ *v* [T] *fml* to confuse or make difficult to understand, perhaps intentionally: *The report obfuscates the principal points.* — **cation** /,ɒbfə'skeɪʃən||,ɑːb-/ *n* [U]

ob/gyn /,əʊbi 'gaɪn/ *n* short for OBSTETRICS and GYNAECOL-OGY, two branches of medicine that are often combined in medical schools and hospitals

O-bie A-ward /'əʊbi ə,wɔːd||-ɔːrd/ also **The Village Voice Off-Broadway Awards** — *n* a prize given to plays produced OFF-BROADWAY

ob-i-ter dic-tum /,ɒbɪtə 'dɪktəm||,ɑːbɪtər-, ,əʊb-/ *n* **obiter dicta** /-tə/ *Lat, law or fml* a remark which is related to the main argument but not necessary to it

o-bit-u-a-ry /ə'bitʃuəri||-tʃuəri/ also **o-bit** /'əʊbɪt/ *infml* — *n* a formal report, esp. in a newspaper, that someone has died, usu. with an account of the dead person's life: *an obituary notice/column*

ob-ject /'ɒbdʒɪkt||'ɑːb-/ *n* **1** a thing that can be seen or felt: *What's that little black object?* | *an unidentified object* **2** [+of] something or someone that produces interest, at

tention, or some other stated feeling: *an object of admiration/of fear* | *She has become an object of pity/contempt.*
3 purpose; aim: *The object of his visit was to open the new hospital.* | *The new law turned public opinion against the government, which was not the object of the exercise.* (=not the intended result) **4** *tech* (in grammar) a noun, noun phrase, or PRONOUN, etc., representing **a** the person or thing (the **direct object**) that something is done to, such as *house* in *We built a house*, or **b** the person (the **indirect object**) who is concerned in the result of an action, such as *her* in *I gave her the book* or in *I gave the book to her*, or **c** the person or thing that is joined by a PREPOSITION to another word or phrase, such as *table* in *He sat on the table.* —compare SUBJECT¹ (**4**) **5** **no object** not a difficulty: *I want the best you can find — money (is) no object.* (=I don't care what it costs)

ob-ject² /əb'dʒekt/ *v* **1** [(to)] to be against something or someone; feel or show opposition or disapproval: *I'd like to open the window, if no one objects.* | *I strongly object to being treated like a child/to his treating me like a child.* | *They object on religious grounds* (=for religious reasons) *to this new law.* **2** [T+(that);obj] to give as an argument against something: *I wanted to climb the hill, but Bill objected that he was too tired.* — **~ or** *n*

object code /'ɒ. ɔ:/ *n* [U] MACHINE CODE

ob-ject-ion /əb'dʒekʃən/ *n* **1** [(to)] a statement or feeling of opposition or disapproval: *to raise/voice an objection* | *If no one has any objections, I'll declare the meeting closed.* **2** [(to, against)] a reason or argument against: *The only objection (to/against hiring her) is that she can't drive.*

ob-ject-ive-na-ble /əb'dʒekʃənəbəl/ *adj* likely to be objected to; unpleasant; offensive: *his objectionable behaviour* — **bly** *adv*

ob-ject-ive¹ /əb'dʒektɪv/ *adj* **1** [no comp.] existing outside the mind; real: *objective facts/reality* **2** not influenced by personal feelings or opinions; fair: *an objective analysis of the political situation* | *Try to be more objective about it.* —opposite **subjective** **3** *tech* (in grammar) of the object — **~ ly** *adv*: *Objectively (speaking), he can't possibly succeed.* — **-tivity** /,əb'dʒektɪvɪtɪ/, *n* [U]

objective² *n* an aim, esp. one that must be worked towards over a long period; GOAL: *Our objective is (to achieve) full employment.* | *We have succeeded in our main objectives.*

object les-son /'ɒ. ɔ:/ *n* [(in)] an event or story from which one can learn how or how not to behave: *Her career is an object lesson in determination.*

ob-jet d'art /,əbʒet 'dɑːt/, *n* **objets d'art** (same pronunciation) an object, usu. small, of some value as art

ob-late sphere /,əbleɪt 'sfɪə/, *n* *tech* a ball which, like the Earth, is not quite round but slightly flattened at the top and bottom

ob-la-tion /ə'bleɪʃən/ *n* [(to) often pl.] *fml* or *tech* a religious offering

ob-li-gate /'əblɪgeɪt/ *v* [T+obj+to-v;usu. pass.] *AmE* or *fml* to make (someone) feel it necessary (to do something), esp. because of a sense of duty: *He felt obligated to visit his parents.*

ob-li-ga-tion /,əblɪ'geɪʃən/, *n* [C;U] **1** a condition or influence that makes it necessary for someone to do something; duty: [+to-v] *You can look around the shop with no obligation to buy.* | *Everyone has a legal obligation to provide the tax office with details of their earnings.* | *to fulfil one's obligations* **2** **under an obligation (to):** **a** having a duty (to): *We are invited, but we are under no obligation to go.* **b** having to be grateful (to): *Her kindness has placed me under an obligation to her.*

ob-lig-a-to-ry /ə'blɪgətəri/-tɔːri/ *adj* *fml* which must be done by law, rule, etc.; COMPULSORY: *If you are a member, attendance at the meeting is obligatory.* —opposites **optional**, **voluntary**

o-blige /ə'blaɪdʒ/ *v* **1** [T+obj+to-v;often pass.] to make it necessary for (someone) to do something: *Falling profits obliged them to close the factory.* | *I felt obliged to leave after such an unpleasant quarrel.* **2** [I;T] to do (someone) a favour; fulfil the wishes (of): *Could you oblige me by opening the window?* | *Could you oblige me with a match?* (=please give me a match) | *I'd be obliged if you would stop interfering.* (=please stop) | *They asked her for more information, and she willingly obliged.* **3** (I'm) **much obliged (to you)** *polite* (I'm) very grateful (to you)

o-blig-ing /ə'blaɪdʒɪŋ/ *adj* willing and eager to help — **~ ly** *adv*

o-blique¹ /ə'blɪk/ *adj* **1** indirect: *oblique hints* | *an oblique reference* **2** having a sloping direction or position: *an oblique line* **3** (of an angle) either more or less than 90 degrees

oblique² also **oblique stroke** /'ɒ. ɔ:/, **slash (mark)**, **solidus**; **stroke** — *n* a mark (/) used for writing FRACTIONS, for separating numbers, etc. In this dictionary it is used for separating two or more possible choices of words, and in pairs for enclosing pronunciations.

o-blit-er-ate /ə'blɪtəreɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to remove all signs of; destroy completely: *The village was obliterated in the bombing raid.* **2** to cover completely; **BLOT out**: *Storm clouds obliterated the sun.* — **-ation** /ə'blɪtə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U]

o-bliv-i-on /ə'blɪvɪən/ *n* [U] **1** the state of being completely forgotten: *The ancient civilization fell/sank into oblivion.* | *The unsuccessful candidate was consigned to (political) oblivion.* **2** the state of being unconscious or not noticing one's surroundings; obliviousness: *This drug promises instant oblivion.*

o-bliv-i-ous /ə'blɪvɪəs/ *adj* [(to, of)] not noticing; UNAWARE: *He was quite oblivious of/to the danger.* — **~ ly** *adv* — **~ ness** *n* [U]

ob-long /'ɒblɒŋ/ *n*, *adj* of or being a shape with four straight sides that is longer than it is wide: *an ob-long room/circle* —compare **RECTANGLE**, **SQUARE** — **oblong** *adj*

ob-lo-quy /'ɒbləkwi/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** strong words spoken against someone; ABUSE **2** loss of respect and honour; DISGRACE

ob-nox-i-ous /əb'nɒkʃəs/ *adj* *fml* very unpleasant or offensive; extremely DISAGREEABLE: *an obnoxious smell/person* — **~ ly** *adv* — **~ ness** *n* [U]

o-boe /'əʊbəʊ/ *n* a musical instrument of the WOODWIND family, with a double REED, played by blowing —see picture at WOODWIND

o-bo-ist /'əʊbəʊɪst/ *n* an oboe player

Q-bo-te /əʊ'bəʊti/, **Milton** (1924–) a Ugandan politician who led the movement for independence from 1961, becoming Prime Minister in 1962 and President from 1966 to 1971 and 1980 to 1985

ob-scene /əb'siːn/ *adj* (esp. of ideas, books, etc., usu. about sex) offensive to accepted ideas of morality; INDECENT: *The police seized a quantity of obscene publications.* | *It is obscene (=shocking) that people should still be dying of starvation in the 1980s.* — **~ ly** *adv*

ob-scen-i-ty /əb'senɪti/ *n* **1** [U] obscene language or behaviour **2** [C] an obscene word or action: *to shout obscenities*

ob-scu-ran-tis-m /,əbskjʊ'ræntɪzəm/, *n* [U] *fml* derog the practice of intentionally stopping ideas and facts from being known; hiding the truth

ob-scure¹ /əb'skjʊə/ *adj* **1** hard to understand; not clear: *a speech full of obscure political jokes* **2** not well known: *an obscure poet* — **~ ly** *adv*

obscure² *v* [T] to hide; make difficult to see or understand: *The clouds obscured the moon.* | *The report obscures the fact that taxes have actually risen.*

ob-scu-ri-ty /əb'skjʊərɪti/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being obscure: *After a 20-year break from acting, the new film rescued her from obscurity.* **2** [C] something which is obscure: *His poems are full of obscurities.*

ob-se-quires /'əbsɪkwɪz/ *n* [P] *fml* funeral ceremonies

ob-se-qui-ous /əb'sɪkwɪəs/ *adj* *fml* too eager to obey or serve; having too little self-respect; SERVILE: *obsequious servants/behaviour* — **~ ly** *adv* — **~ ness** *n* [U]

ob-ser-va-ble /əb'zɜːvəbəl/-zɜːr/ *adj* that can be seen or noticed: *no observable improvement* — **bly** *adv*

ob-ser-vance /əb'zɜːvəns/-zɜːr/ *n* **1** [U] behaviour in accordance with a law, ceremony, or custom: *strict observance of the rules* | *the observance of Christmas* **2** [C often pl.] a part of a religious ceremony: *ritual observances*

ob-ser-vant /əb'zɜːvənt/-zɜːr/ *adj* **1** quick at noticing things: *Luckily an observant passerby noticed the fire.* —opposite **unobservant** **2** [(of)] rare acting in accordance with esp. religious law or custom

ob-ser-va-tion /,əbzə'veɪʃən/, *n* [C;U] (an) action of noticing or watching: *She's in hospital under*

observation. (=being watched to see if she is ill) | *He left by the back door to escape observation.* (=to avoid being noticed) | *to make scientific observations* (=record what one has noticed) | *powers of observation* (=ability to notice things) **2** [C] *fml* a spoken or written remark (about something noticed): *She made some interesting observations on the current political scene.* **3** [U] observance

observation post /ˌɒbzəˈveɪʃən pɒst/ *n* a position from which something, for example the movements of an enemy, can be watched

ob-ser-va-to-ry /əbˈzɜːvətəri/ *n* a place from which scientists watch natural objects and events (esp. the moon, stars, etc.)

ob-serve /əbˈzɜːv/ *v* [T] **1** *a* to see and notice: *Did you observe anything unusual in his behaviour?* [+that/wh-] *I observed that they were late/where they went.* [+obj+to-v/v-ing] *The police observed him enter/entering the bank with a shotgun.* *b* to watch with careful attention: *to observe the stars* | *The police have been observing his movements.* **2** to act in accordance with (law, custom, etc.): *to observe the speed limit/a cease-fire* | *Do you observe Christmas?* **3** to make a remark; say: *“That’s odd,” he observed.* [+that] *He observed that it was odd.*

ob-serv-er /əbˈzɜːvər/ *n* **1** someone who observes: *an observer of nature* | *an impartial observer of the current political scene* **2** someone who attends meetings, classes, etc., only to listen, not to take part: *The United Nations sent a team of observers to the peace talks.*

Observer [the] a serious British newspaper which is printed and sold every Sunday — see also extra information on page 896

ob-sess /əbˈses/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to completely fill the mind of (someone) so that no attention is given to other matters; PREOCCUPY to an extreme degree: *She’s obsessed by the thought of another war/with the desire to become a great scientist.*

ob-ses-sion /əbˈseʃən/ *n* [(about, with)] a fixed and often unreasonable idea with which the mind is continually concerned: *He has an unhealthy obsession with death.*

ob-ses-sion-al /əbˈseʃənəl/ *adj* **1** [(about)] (of a person) having obsessions: *She’s obsessional about cleanliness.* **2** causing or connected with obsessions: *His obsessional behaviour is beginning to annoy me.* | *an obsessional idea/illness*

ob-ses-sive ¹ /əbˈsesɪv/ *adj* of or being an obsession: *his obsessive interest in sex* | *an obsessive hatred of women*

obsessive ² *n* a person who has obsessions

ob-sid-i-an /əbˈsɪdiən/ *n* [U] a type of dark rock which looks like glass

ob-so-les-cent /ˌɒbsəˈlesənt/ *adj* becoming obsolete: *This type of computer is obsolescent.* — compare MORIBUND; see also PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE — **cence** *n* [U]

ob-so-lete /ˌɒbsəˈliːt/ *adj* no longer used; completely out of date: *obsolete machinery/ideas/words*

ob-sta-cle /ˈɒbstəkl/ *n* [(to)] something which prevents action, movement, or success: *She felt that her family were an obstacle to her work.* | *They tried to put obstacles in the way of (=to prevent) our marriage.*

obstacle course /ˈɒbstəkl kɔːrs/ *n* **1** a line of objects which runners in an **obstacle race** have to jump over/climb through, etc.: (fig.) *Claimants face an obstacle course of forms, interviews, and assessments which seem designed to stop them getting their rights.* **2** *AmE* ASSAULT COURSE

ob-ste-tri-cian /ˌɒbstɪˈtriʃən/ *n* a doctor who is a specialist in obstetrics

ob-stet-rics /əbˈstetɪks/ *n* [U] the branch of medicine concerned with the birth of children — **ric** *adj*

ob-sti-nate /ˈɒbstɪˈneɪt/ *adj* **1** refusing to change one’s opinion or behaviour, in spite of argument or attempts to persuade one: *She’s so obstinate — she won’t let anyone help her.* | *an obstinate child* **2** difficult to deal with, control, or defeat: *obstinate resistance* | *an obstinate cough* (=hard to cure) — **ly** *adv* — **nacy** *n* [U]

ob-strep-e-rous /əbˈstrepərəs/ *adj* *fml* or *humor* (of people or behaviour) noisy, bad-tempered, and uncontrollable — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

ob-struct /əbˈstrʌkt/ *v* [T] **1** to block up (a road, passage, etc.): *The broken-down truck obstructed the road/the traffic.* **2** to put difficulties in the way of: *to obstruct a*

plan | *to obstruct the course of justice by withholding vital information*

ob-struc-tion /əbˈstrʌkʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the process of obstructing: *The opposition tried to stop the law being passed by deliberate obstruction.* **2** [C] something that obstructs: *an obstruction in a pipe/in the throat* **3** [U] (in football, HOCKEY, etc.) a FOUL in which a player gets between an opponent and the ball so as to prevent the opponent from playing the ball

ob-struc-tion-is-m /əbˈstrʌkʃənɪzəm/ *n* [U] the act of intentionally obstructing something, esp. the passing of a law — **ist** *n*

ob-struc-tive /əbˈstrʌktɪv/ *adj* intentionally obstructing: *obstructive behaviour/policy* — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

ob-tain /əbˈteɪn/ *v* **1** [T] *rather fml* to become the owner of, esp. by means of effort or planning; get: *I haven’t been able to obtain that record anywhere.* | *He said the police had obtained this information by illegal means.* | *Further information can be obtained from our head office.* **2** [I not in progressive forms] *fml* to be established; remain in or come into existence: *Those conditions no longer obtain.*

ob-tain-a-ble /əbˈteɪnəbəl/ *adj* that can be obtained: *I’m sorry sir, that type of camera is no longer obtainable.* — opposite **unobtainable**

ob-trude /əbˈtruːd/ *v* [I;T] *fml* **1** to (cause to) stick out: *The snail’s horns obtruded.* | *The snail obtruded its horns.* **2** [(on, upon)] to (cause to) be noticed, esp. when unwanted: *Unfortunately, in this essay his personal opinions keep obtruding (themselves).* — compare EXTRUDE, INTRUDE, PROTRUDE

ob-tru-sive /əbˈtruːsɪv/ *adj* unpleasantly noticeable: *rather obtrusive smells* | *music/behaviour* — opposite **unobtrusive** — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

ob-tuse /əbˈtjuːs/ *adj* **1** *fml* annoyingly slow in understanding: *Is he stupid or is he being deliberately obtuse?* **2** (of an angle) between 90 and 180 degrees — see picture at ANGLE — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n*

ob-verse /ˈɒbvɜːs/ *n* [the] **1** *tech* the front side of a coin or MEDAL — opposite **reverse** **2** [(of)] *fml* a necessary opposite: *Defeat is the obverse of victory.*

ob-vi-ate /ˈɒbvɪeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to clear away (a difficulty); make unnecessary: *The use of a credit card obviates the need to carry a lot of money.*

ob-vi-ous /ˈɒbvɪəs/ *adj* [(to)] easy to see and understand; clear; which must be recognized: *There are obvious disadvantages in this plan.* | *I’ve got my exams tomorrow, so for obvious reasons I won’t be able to come out tonight.* | *It was obvious to everyone that he was lying.* | *To say we are disappointed would be stating the obvious.* (=saying what is too clear to need saying) — **ness** *n* [U]

ob-vi-ous-ly /ˈɒbvɪəsli/ *adv* it can be easily seen (that); plainly: *This key is obviously the wrong one.* | *“Is she sorry?” “Obviously not! Look at her.”* — compare APPARENTLY, EVIDENTLY

oc-a-ri-na /ˌɒkəˈriːnə/ *n* a type of small musical instrument played by blowing

oc-ca-sion ¹ /əˈkeɪʒən/ *n* **1** [C] a time when something happens: *on several occasions* | *On that occasion I was not at home.* **2** [S (for)] a suitable or favourable time: *This is hardly the occasion for a family argument.* | *You should go there if the occasion (=the chance) arises.* **3** [C] a special event or ceremony: *The opening of a new school is always a great occasion.* | *I wear a tie only on special occasions.* **4** [S (of)] *fml* a direct cause or reason: *His remark was the occasion of a bitter quarrel.* [+to-v] *There was no occasion to be so rude.* **5** *on occasion* *fml* from time to time; occasionally — see also SENSE OF OCCASION, **rise to the occasion** (RISE¹); see CHANCE (USAGE)

occasion ² *v* [T] *fml* to cause: *What occasioned this outburst of temper?* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Your behaviour has occasioned us a lot of trouble.*

oc-ca-sion-al /əˈkeɪʒənəl/ *adj* **1** happening from time to time; not regular: *occasional showers* | *I’m not a heavy drinker, but I like the occasional glass of wine.* **2** [A] *fml* or *tech* written or intended for a special occasion: *occasional poems* — see NEVER (USAGE) — **ly** *adv*

Oc-ci-dent /ˈɒksɪdənt/ *n* [the] esp. *fml* or

lit the western part of the world, esp. Europe and the Americas —compare ORIENT

oc-ci-den-tal /ˌɒksɪˈdɛntəl-||, ˈɑːk-/ *n*, *adj* esp. *fml* or *lit* (sometimes *cap.*) (a person) of the Occident —compare ORIENTAL

oc-cult /ˈɒkʌlt, əˈkʌlt||əˈkʌlt, ˈɑː-/ *adj* magical and mysterious; hidden from the knowledge or understanding of ordinary people: *occult powers/ceremonies* —**occult** *n* [*the*]: *She's fascinated by black magic and the occult.*

oc-cu-pan-cy /ˈɒkjʊpənsi||ˈɑːk-/ *n* [U] *fml* the act or period of actually using a building, piece of land, or other space: *five years' occupancy* | *commercial occupancy*

oc-cu-pant /ˈɒkjʊpənt||ˈɑːk-/ *n* [(of)] *fml* **1** a person who lives in a place, though without necessarily owning it: *the occupant of the flat upstairs* **2** a person who is in a place or space: *The car plunged into the river, killing all its occupants.*

oc-cu-pa-tion /ˌɒkjʊˈpeɪʃən||, ˈɑːk-/ *n* **1** [C] a job; employment: *Please state your name, address, and occupation.* —see JOB (USAGE) **2** [C] a way of spending time; PASTIME: *Knitting is a peaceful occupation.* **3** [U] the act of occupying a place, or the state or period of being occupied, esp. of one country occupying another

Occupation also **German Occupation** — [*the*] the period during the Second World War when German soldiers occupied France

oc-cu-pa-tion-al /ˌɒkjʊˈpeɪʃənəl-||, ˈɑːk-/ *adj* of, about, or caused by one's job: *For professional footballers, injuries are an occupational hazard.* (=a risk connected with their work) —*ly adv*

occupational ther-a-py /,..... ˈ.../ *n* [U] the treatment of illness by giving people special help and special work to do to keep them active while their bodies recover after an illness or accident —**pist** *n*

oc-cu-pi-er /ˈɒkjʊpaɪə||ˈɑːk-/ *n* esp. *BrE* a person who occupies a place, esp. an OCCUPANT of a house —see also OWNER-OCCUPIER

oc-cu-py /ˈɒkjʊpaɪ||ˈɑːk-/ *v* [T] **1** to move into and hold possession of (a place), e.g. by military force: *The workers occupied the factory and refused to leave.* | *The enemy occupied the town.* | *an occupying army* **2** to fill (a position, space, or time): *Writing occupies most of my free time.* | *The story occupied most of the front page of the paper.* **3** [*usu. pass.*] to be in (a place): *The house is no longer occupied.* | *Is that seat occupied?* (=Is it free?) **4** [(in, with)] to cause to spend time (doing something); keep busy: *This game will keep the children occupied.* | *I occupied myself in writing letters.*

oc-cur /əˈkɜːr/ *v* -**rr-** [I] **1** rather *fml* (esp. of unplanned events) to take place; happen: *Many accidents occur in the home.* | *The tragedy occurred only minutes after takeoff.* —see HAPPEN (USAGE) **2** [+*adv/prep*] (esp. of something not alive) to be found; exist: *That sound doesn't occur in his language so it's difficult for him to pronounce.*

occur to sbdy. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] (of an idea) to come to (someone's) mind: *Didn't it occur to you that he might be late?* | *The possibility that she might be wrong never even occurred to her.* | *It suddenly occurred to me that we could use a computer to do the job.*

oc-cur-rence /əˈkʌrəns||əˈkɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C] an event; happening: *This sort of incident is an everyday occurrence.* **2** [U] the process of happening: *the occurrence of violent storms*

o-cean /ˈəʊʃən/ *n* **1** [(the) U] the great mass of salt water that covers most of the Earth's surface **2** [C] (often *cap.* as part of a name) any of the great seas into which this mass is divided: *the Pacific Ocean* **3** **oceans of** *infml* a great mass or amount of: *oceans of flowers* —see also a **drop in the ocean** (DROP²) —*~ic* /,əʊʃiˈænik-|| *adj*

o-cean-go-ing /ˈəʊʃən,ɡəʊɪŋ/ also **seagoing** — *adj* (esp. of a ship) built to travel on the sea rather than on rivers or in HARBOURS

o-cean-og-ra-phy /,əʊʃənˈɒɡrəfi||-ˈɑːg-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of the ocean —**pher** *n*

oc-e-lot /ˈɒsəlɒt||ˈɑːsɪlət, ˈəʊ-/ *n* a large spotted American wild cat

o-chre || *usu. ocher* *AmE* /ˈəʊkə||ˈɑːk-/ *n* [U] **1** a fine reddish-yellow earth used as a colouring substance in paints **2** the colour of ochre —**ochre** *adj*

o'clock /əˈklɒk||əˈklɑːk/ *adv* (used with the numbers from 1 to 12 in telling time) exactly the hour stated according

to the clock: *"What time is it?" "It's 9 o'clock."*

▷ **USAGE** In modern English, **o'clock** is used only when saying the exact hour, not an hour and a number of minutes: **9 o'clock**, but *5 past 9* (*5 after 9* in American English), *half past 9*, etc. ◀

O Come All Ye Faith-ful /,..... ˈ.../ the title and first line of a well-known Christmas CAROL (=religious song sung at Christmas)

O'Con-nell /əʊˈkɒnəl||-ˈkɑːr/, **Daniel** (1775–1847) an Irish politician who forced the government to give rights to Roman Catholics, and worked for an end to the union with Britain

O'Con-nor /əʊˈkɒnə||-ˈkɑːr/, **Des** /dez/ (1932–) an English popular music singer and television PERSONALITY, popular esp. with older people. He is sometimes mentioned by British people in jokes as being a bad singer.

O'Connor, San-dra Day /ˈsændrə deɪ/ (1930–) the first woman JUSTICE (judge) on the American Supreme Court

OCR /,əʊ sɪː ˈɑːr/ *n* [U] optical character recognition; a method by which a machine can read words and store them directly on a computer, without the use of a typist

Oct. *written abbrev. for:* OCTOBER

oc-ta-gon /ˈɒktəɡən||ˈɑːktəɡɔːn/ *n* *tech* a flat shape with eight sides and eight angles — *~al* /ɒkˈtæɡənəl||ˈɑːk-/ *adj*

oc-tal /ˈɒktəl||ˈɑːk-/ *adj* *tech* based on the number 8; using the numbers 0-7 in combination. Octal numbers have many uses in computers.

oc-tane /ˈɒkteɪn||ˈɑːk-/ *n* a chemical compound added to petrol. Sometimes an **octane number** shows the power and quality of petrol, the higher the better: *100-octane petrol* | *high octane fuel*

oc-tave /ˈɒktɪv, -teɪv||ˈɑːk-/ *n* *tech* **1** a a space of eight degrees between musical notes: *two notes an octave apart* | *a singer with a range of three octaves* **b** a set of eight musical notes, with the highest and lowest notes eight degrees apart **2** a group of eight lines of poetry, esp. the first eight of a SONNET (=poem of 14 lines)

oc-ta-vo /ɒkˈteɪvəʊ||ˈɑːk-/ *n* [U] *tech* the (size of) paper produced by folding a large sheet of paper three times so as to give eight sheets or sixteen pages in all. In Britain and Europe the metric measures for paper are now more often used. —see also A4; compare FOLIO (2), QUARTO

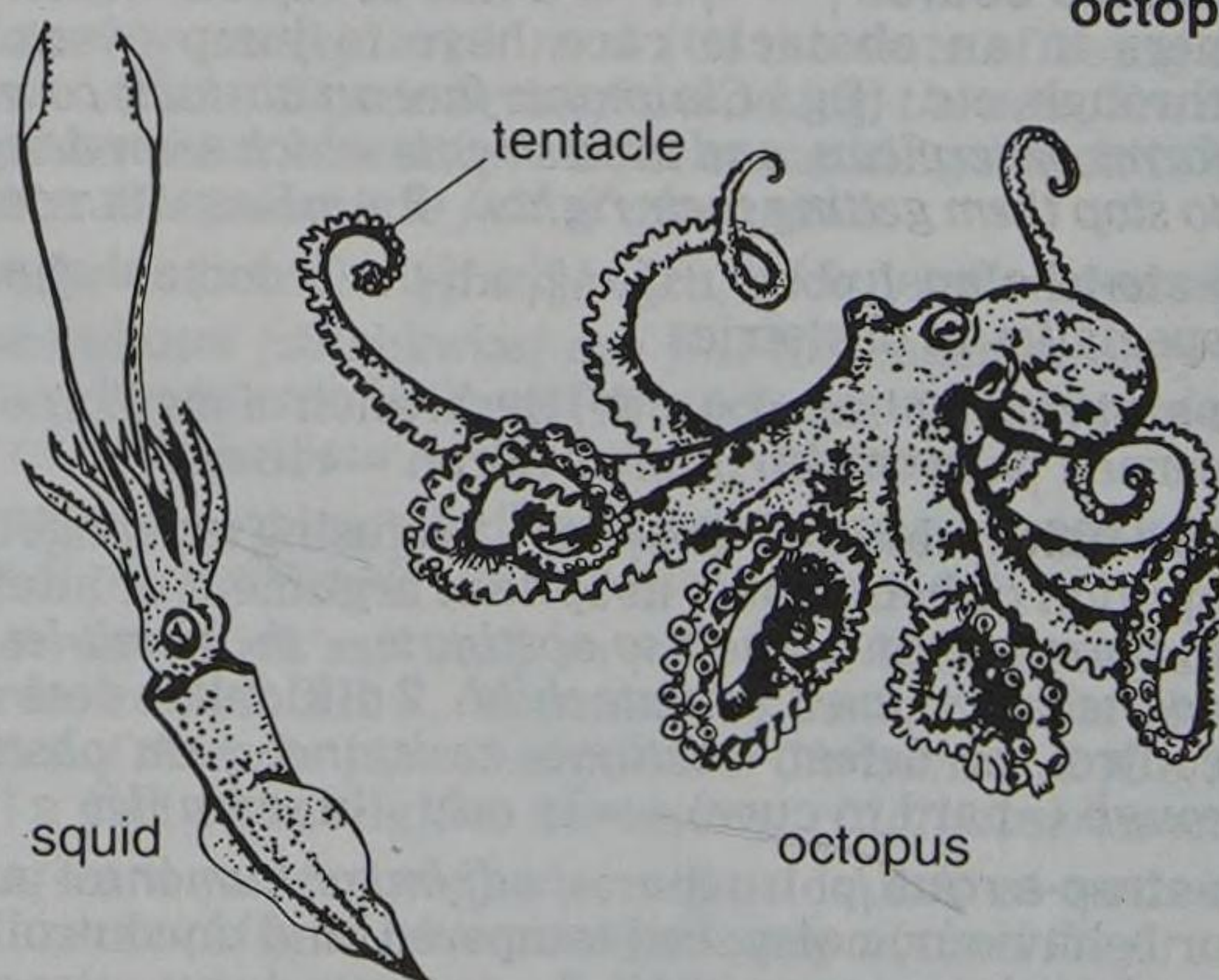
oc-tet /ɒkˈtɛt||ˈɑːk-/ *n* **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] eight singers or musicians performing together **2** a piece of music for an octet —compare SEXTET, SEPTET

Oc-to-ber /ɒkˈtəʊbə||ˈɑːk-/ (*written abbrev. Oct.*) *n* [C;U] the tenth month of the year, between September and November: *It happened on October the third/on the third of October/(AmE) on October third.* | *This office opened in October 1991.* | *She started work here last October/the October before last.*

▷ **CULTURAL NOTE** October is connected in people's minds with autumn, leaves falling off trees, and Hallowe'en, which is on October 31st. ◀

oc-to-ge-nar-i-an /,ɒktəʊdʒɪˈneəriən, -tə-||, ˈɑːk-/ *n* a person who is between 80 and 89 years old

octopus



oc-to-pus /ˈɒktəpəs||ˈɑːk-/ *n* -**puses** or -**pi** /paɪ/ **1** [C] a deep-sea creature with eight TENTACLES (=arms) —see also SQUID **2** [U] octopus meat as food; it is a rare food in

Britain, eaten mainly in restaurants, e.g. as part of a SEAFOOD SALAD

oc-u-lar /'ɒkjʊləɹ/ || 'ɑ:k-/ *adj fml or tech* of the eyes: *ocular muscles*

oc-u-list /'ɒkjʊlɪst/ || 'ɑ:k-/ *n* a doctor who examines and treats people's eyes —compare OPTICIAN (USAGE)

OD /,əʊ 'di:/ *v* [I (on)] *sl* to take too much of a drug; take an OVERDOSE; used esp. when speaking of dangerous drugs: *He O.D.ed on heroin.*

o-da-lisque /'əʊdəlɪsk/ *n lit* an Eastern female slave in former times, esp. one used for sexual purposes

odd /ɒd/ || 'ɑ:d/ *adj* **1** different from what is ordinary or expected; unusual; PECULIAR: *odd behaviour/people* | *It's very odd that she didn't reply to our letter.* **2** [A] separated from its pair or set: *an odd shoe* **3** (of a number) that cannot be divided exactly by two: 1, 3, 5, 7, etc., are *odd*. —opposite **even** **4** [A] not regular; OCCASIONAL: *He does odd jobs for me from time to time.* | *We get the odd complaint but most of our customers seem quite satisfied.* **5** [after *n*] *infml* (after numbers) rather more than the stated number: *20-odd years* (=a little more than 20 years) —see also ODDLY

odd-ball /'ɒdbɔ:l/ || 'ɑ:d-/ *n infml, esp. AmE* a person who behaves in an odd way

Odd Cou-ple /'ɒ. ɹ.. / [the] a play, film, and television programme made in the US about two men, Felix and Oscar, who share a flat with each other and who are very different from each other. Felix is very tidy and clean, but Oscar is lazy and dirty.

odd-i-ty /'ɒdɪti/ || 'ɑ:-/ *n* **1** [C] a strange or unusual person, thing, etc. **2** [U] strangeness

odd-job man /'ɒ. ɹ.. / *n* a man who is employed to do various small pieces of work (**odd jobs**) for pay, usu. in people's houses

odd-ly /'ɒdli/ || 'ɑ:di/ *adv* **1** in an odd way: *behaving rather oddly* **2** it is odd that: *Oddly enough, the letter never arrived.*

odd man out /'ɒ. ɹ.. / also **odd one out**— *n odd men/ones out* **1** a (male or female) person or thing that is different from, or left out of, a group: *Which of these three shapes is the odd one out?* **2** *infml* someone (male or female) who does not mix easily with others: *I was always the odd man out in my class at school.* —see MAN (USAGE)

odd-ment /'ɒdmənt/ || 'ɑ:d-/ *n [often pl.] infml* something remaining; REMNANT: *a few oddments of cloth*

odds /ɒdz/ || 'ɑ:dz/ *n* [P] **1 a** the probability that something will or will not happen: *She may pass but the odds are* (=it is likely that) *she will fail.* | *Against all the odds* (=very unexpectedly) *he recovered from his illness.* | *They are fighting against heavy odds.* **b** such probability expressed in numbers when making a BET: [+ (that)] *The odds are 10 to 1 that her horse will win.* | *I laid him* (=offered him) *odds of 50 to 1.* | *to back a horse at long/short odds* (=odds that are/are not strongly against its winning) **2 at odds (with)** in disagreement (with): *Those two have been at odds (with one another) for ages.* | *This new evidence is at odds with their earlier statement.* **3 it/that makes no odds** *BrE* it/that makes no difference; has no importance: *It makes no odds whether we go or stay.*

odds and ends /'ɒ. ɹ.. / also **odds and sods** *BrE sl*— *n* [P] **1** small articles of various kinds, without much value **2** small jobs of various kinds, of no great importance

odds-on /'ɒ. ɹ.. / *adj* very likely (to win): *The odds-on favourite* (=the horse that everyone thought would win) *came in last, to everyone's surprise.* | *It's odds-on that she won't come.*

ode /əʊd/ *n* a usu. long poem addressed to a person or thing

O-de-on /'əʊdiən/ *n* [C;U] (a cinema run by) a company which operates cinemas in most British cities

O-din /'əʊdɪn/ also **Woden**— in Norse MYTHOLOGY, the highest god and maker of the universe; the God of wisdom, poetry, farming, war, and the dead

o-di-ous /'əʊdiəs/ *adj fml* hateful; very unpleasant — ~ *ly adv*

o-di-um /'əʊdiəm/ *n* [U] *fml* widespread hatred: *to be exposed to/held in public odium*

o-dom-e-ter /əʊ'dɒmətə/ || -'da:-/ *n AmE* for MILEOMETER

o-do-rif-er-ous /,əʊdəɹ'ɪfərəs-/ *adj fml or humor* having a smell, esp. a pleasant one

o-do-rous /'əʊdəɹəs/ *adj fml* having a smell —compare MALODOROUS

o-dour *BrE* || -**dor** *AmE* /'əʊdəɹ/ *n* **1** rather *fml* a smell, esp. an unpleasant one **2** *BrE* in bad odour (with) *fml* badly thought of (by): *I've been in bad odour with the boss since he discovered that I had criticized him.* — ~ *less adj*: *an odourless deodorant*

O-dys-se-us /ə'dɪsiəs/ || 'əʊ-/ also **Ulysses**— in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the King of Ithaca, husband of Penelope, and leader of the Greeks in the Trojan War, noted for his bravery and cleverness

od-ys-sey /'ɒdɪsi/ || 'ɑ:-/ *n esp. lit* **1** [the + cap.] the story of Odysseus' ten-year journey home after the Trojan War, as told by Homer **2** a long adventurous journey marked by many changes of fortune

OECD /,əʊ i: si: 'di:/ [the] the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; an international group of wealthy countries who work together for developing trade and economic growth. Most western European countries are members, along with Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the US.

OED /,əʊ i: 'di:/ *abbrev. for*: Oxford English Dictionary

oe-di-pal /'i:dzɪpəl/ || 'ed-/ *adj* related to an Oedipus complex: *Oedipal longings/fantasies*

Oe-di-pus /'i:dzɪpəs/ || 'ed-/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the son of King Laius and Queen Jocasta of Thebes, who was adopted (ADOPT (1)) by the King of Corinth. As an adult, Oedipus returned to Thebes and, without knowing who they were, killed his father and married his mother. His story is told in the play *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles.

Oe-di-pus com-plex /'i:dzɪpəs ,kɒmpleks/ || 'edɪpəs ,kɑ:m-/ *n* (in Freudian PSYCHOLOGY) an unconscious sexual desire by a child for the parent of the opposite sex, esp. by a young boy for his mother combined with hatred of his father

OEM /,əʊ i: 'em/ *n tech* original equipment manufacturer; a company that makes esp. computer equipment and sells it to other companies who use it in their own products which are sold to the public: *Our firm is an OEM for several hardware vendors.*

o'er /əʊəɹ/ *adv, prep poet* over

oe-soph-a-gus *esp. BrE* || usu. **esophagus** *AmE* /ɪ'sɒf-əgəs/ || ɪ'sɑ:-/ *n med* the food tube leading from the mouth down into the stomach —see picture at RESPIRATORY

oes-tro-gen *BrE* || **es-** *AmE* /'i:stɹədʒən/ || 'es-/ *n* [U] a substance produced in the female OVARY, which causes certain changes in the body in preparation for the production of young. It is widely used in ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES and HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY, usu. with PROGESTERONE.

oeu-vre /'ɜ:vʀə/ *n Fr* all the works of an artist, such as a painter, writer, etc.: *Picasso's/Forster's oeuvre*

of /əv, ə; strong ɒv/ || əv, ə; strong ɑ:v/ *prep* **1** belonging to: *the colour of her dress* | *the roots of your hair* | *the size of the wings* | *the leg of the table* (compare *John's leg, the dog's leg*) —see USAGE **2** made from: *a dress of silk* | *a crown of gold* **3** containing: *a bag of potatoes* | *a book of poems* | *a glass of beer* **4** (shows a part in relation to a whole): *two pounds of sugar* | *much of the night* | *two kilometres of bad road* | *lots of money* | *a blade of grass* | *a drop of oil* **5** from the group that includes: *members of the team* | *one of his last poems* | *the two of us* | *both of us* | *the older of the two* | *the most important of all* | *a sort of basket* **6 a** (used in dates): *the 27th of February* **b** *AmE* (used in telling time) before: *It's five (minutes) of two.* (=1.55) **c** during: *They always like to go there of an evening.* **7** that is/are; being: *the City of New York* | *the art of painting* | *at the age of eight* | *the problem of unemployment* | *a price increase of 15 per cent* | *some fool of a boy* (=some foolish boy) **8 a** directed towards; felt for or done to: *the villagers' fear of an earthquake* | *the killing of innocent civilians* **b** felt by or done by: *the fear of the villagers* | *the howling of the dogs* | *the attacks of her opponents* **9** (of works of art or literature) **a** written, painted, etc., by: *the plays of Shakespeare* **b** about; having as a subject: *a picture of John* **10** in relation to; connected with: *the King of England* | *the results of the meeting* | *a teacher of English* | *the time of arrival* | *east of Suez* | *the advantages of using a computer* | *slow of speech* |

to die of hunger | fond of swimming | to cure him of a disease | within a mile of here (=not more than a mile from here) | a lover of music **11** with; having: an area of low rainfall/high unemployment | a woman of ability | a matter of no importance **12** (showing origin) coming from: a man of the people | Jesus of Nazareth **13** (showing cause) by; through: She did it of her own free will. | It didn't happen of itself. **14** (used in the pattern *adj+of*, for making a judgment about behaviour): How kind of John to buy the tickets! | It was typical of the government to raise the tax on beer.

▷ **USAGE** Use **'s** rather than **of** to mean "belonging to a person or something alive": Compare *John's aim* | *the dog's leg* | *my father's character* | *the girls' dresses* with *the arm of the chair* | *the leg of the table* | *the character of the new building*. **'s** is used in expressions of time like *a day's work* | *Let's meet in a year's time*. It is sometimes used with place-names, especially in newspapers, to save space: *London's traffic* | *Britain's athletes*. ◀

off¹ /ɒf|ɔ:f/ *adj, adv* [F] **1** away from or no longer in a place or position: *They got into the car and drove off.* | *Catch this bus and get off* (=out of the bus) *at the station.* | *We turned off* (=aside) *into a side road.* | *Goodbye! I'm off now.* (=I'm leaving) | *They're off!* (=the race has started) | (old-fash) *Be off with you!* (=go away) | *The show got off to a good start.* (=started well) **2** to or at a particular distance away in time or space: *two miles off* | *several years off* **3** in or into a state of being disconnected or removed: *The door handle fell off.* | *Take off your shoes.* | *How do you get this lid off?* | *to cut off a branch from a tree* | *If you buy more than ten, they knock 20p off the price.* **4** (esp. of a machine or electrical apparatus) not working; not operating: *Turn the light/the tap off.* | *The TV is off.* | *Switch off the engine before you put any petrol in.* —opposite **on** **5** so as to be completely finished or no longer there: *Finish the work off before you go home.* | *They killed off all the mosquitoes.* **6** (of food) **a** esp. BrE no longer good to eat or drink: *The milk is off/has gone off.* **b** no longer being served in a restaurant: *Sorry, madam, strawberries are off.* **7** away or free from regular work: *have Monday off* | *I'm taking a week off over Christmas.* | *The maid is off today.* —see also **DAY OFF** **8** (of behaviour) not quite right; not as good as usual: *Her work has gone off lately.* | (infml) *I thought it was a bit off, not even answering my letter!* **9** not going to happen after all: *I'm afraid the party's off.* | *Their engagement's off.* —compare **ON**² (6) **10** [(for)] having a stated amount of something, esp. money: *They're badly off/not well off.* (=They're poor.) | *You'd be better off with a bicycle rather than that old car.* | *How are you off for clean socks?* (=have you enough?) —see also **BADLY-OFF**, **WELL-OFF** **11** (of actors) not on the stage but able to be heard in the theatre; **OFFSTAGE**: *voices off* **12 off and on** also **on and off** — from time to time; sometimes **13 off the top of one's head** without thinking or preparation **14 right off** (esp. BrE) **straight off** at once

off² *prep* **1** not on; away from (a surface that is touched or rested on): *Get off my foot!* | *Keep off the grass.* | *She jumped off the bus.* **2** from (something that supports or holds up): *Take the curtains off their hooks.* | *to eat off golden plates* **3 a** disconnected or removed from: *A button has come off my shirt.* **b** subtracted or taken away from: *cut a piece off the loaf* | *knock five dollars off the price* | (infml) *He borrowed a pound off me.* **4** to or at a particular distance away from in time or space: *The ship was blown off course.* | *We're going (right) off the subject.* | (fig.) *We're a long way off understanding this yet.* **5** (esp. of a road) turning away from (a larger one): *a narrow street off the High Street* | *Our house is just off/50 metres off the main road.* **6** in the sea near: *an island off the coast of France* | *six miles off Portsmouth* **7** (of a person) **a** BrE no longer wanting: *He's off his food.* | *I've gone off/I'm right off her books for some reason.* **b** no longer taking (esp. medicine): *The doctor took her off the pills.*

off³ *adj* [A] **1** (of a period) **a** marked by lower than usual standards of performance: *I'm afraid this is one of his off days; he usually plays better.* **b** with less than usual activity; quiet: *Tickets are cheaper during the off season.* **2** [no comp.] of a pair, the one on the right; **OFFSIDE**: *the off wheel of a cart* —opposite **near**

off⁴ also **off side** — *n* [the] that part of a cricket field in front and to the right of the (right-handed) player who hits the

ball (**BATSMAN**) as he faces the player who **BOWLS** it —opposite **leg**

off⁵ *v* [T] AmE *sl* to kill

off- —see **WORD FORMATION**

of-fal /'ɒfəl||'ɔ:z-, 'ɑ:z-/ BrE || **variety meats** AmE — *n* [U] the heart, head, brains, etc., of an animal, used as food

Of-fa's Dyke /,ɒfəz 'daɪk||,ɔ:f-/ a long bank of earth put up between Wales and the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia, by King **Offa** of Mercia in the eighth century. Parts of it can still be seen, and it is followed by a public path.

off-beat /,ɒf'bi:t-||,ɔ:f-/ *adj infml* unusual; not CONVENTIONAL: *offbeat clothes/tastes/ideas*

off-break /'ɒf-./ *n* (in cricket) a slow ball that turns from the off (**OFF**⁴) side to the leg (**LEG** (7)) side when it bounces (**BOUNCE**)

off Broadway /,ɒf-./ *adv* AmE **1** (of theatre in new York) not in the main professional group of theatres, but more unusual or EXPERIMENTAL in nature: *His new play about life in a women's prison is opening off Broadway.* **2 off-off Broadway** more unusual, or perhaps extreme, than off Broadway —**off-Broadway** *adj*: *an off-Broadway production of Hamlet*

off-chance /'ɒf-./ *n* a very unlikely possibility: *I'm just waiting here on the off-chance that the Queen will walk past.*

off colour /,ɒf-./ *adj* **1** BrE not well: *She's been feeling a bit off colour for the last day or two.* **2** sexually improper: *The nightclub comedian told some rather off-colour jokes.*

off-du-ty /,ɒf-./ *adj* (of someone in a profession or armed service) not working: *an off-duty policeman*

of-fence BrE || **offense** AmE /ə'fens/ *n* **1** [C (against)] an act of wrongdoing, esp. of breaking the law; crime: *Driving while drunk is a serious offence/is not a minor offence.* | *They won't imprison him for a first offence.* (=his first crime) | *The defendant asked for ten similar offences to be taken into consideration.* (=asked for his/her sentence to be made less severe because he/she had admitted to the ten other crimes) | *His evil crimes were an offence against the whole of humanity.* **2** [U] cause for hurt feelings: *to give/cause offence to someone* | *I hope you won't take offence* (=feel offended) *if I ask you not to smoke.* | *Don't be upset by what he said — he meant no offence.* (=did not intend to offend you) **3** [C (to)] something that causes displeasure: *That dirty old house is an offence to the eye/to everyone who lives in the street.*

of-fend /ə'fend/ *v* **1** [T often pass.] to hurt the feelings of; upset: *I was very offended that you forgot my birthday.* | *I hope you won't be offended if I don't finish this cake.* **2** [T] to cause displeasure to; be offensive to: *Cruelty to animals offends many people.* **3** [I (against)] *fm* to do wrong: *to offend against good manners/good taste*

of-fend-er /ə'fendə/ *n* someone who offends, esp. a criminal: *They don't usually imprison first offenders.* (=people found guilty for the first time)

of-fend-ing /ə'fendɪŋ/ *adj* [A] often humor causing displeasure, discomfort, or inconvenience: *I had bad toothache and decided to have the offending tooth removed.*

of-fense /'ɒfens||'ɔ:fens-, 'ɑ:z-/ *n* AmE **1** OFFENCE (1), (2), and (3) **2** the part of a game concerned with making points and winning: *He plays offense for the Bears.* || *We'll never win if we don't improve our offense.* —opposite **defense**

of-fen-sive¹ /ə'fensɪv/ *adj* **1** causing offence; unpleasant: *offensive remarks/smells* | *I found him extremely offensive.* | *crude jokes that are offensive to women* —opposite **inoffensive** **2** of or for attacking: *offensive weapons* | *The troops took up offensive positions.* —opposite **defensive** **3** AmE of the offense in a game: *an offensive play* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

offensive² *n* **1** a continued military attack: *The enemy launched a full-scale offensive.* **2 on the offensive** making an attack or ready to attack **3 take the offensive** to attack first

of-fer¹ /'ɒfə/||'ɔ:z-, 'ɑ:z-/ *v* **1** [T (to)] to hold out (to a person) for acceptance or refusal: *The police are offering a big reward for any information about the murder.* | *May I offer a suggestion?* | *Offer some coffee to the guests.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *They've offered us £60,000 for the house.* | *Shall we take it?* | *I've been offered a job in advertising.* **2** [I;T+to-v;obj] to express willingness (to do something):

She offered to drive me to the station. | I don't need any help, but it was kind of you to offer. **3** [T] to provide; give: *This agreement does not offer much hope of a lasting peace. | The booklet offers practical advice to people with housing problems.* **4** [T (UP, to)] to give (to God): *He offered (up) a prayer/a sacrifice.*

offer² *n* **1** a statement offering (to do) something: *an offer of assistance | a firm offer* (=a promise, esp. to pay a certain amount of money) | *They made us an offer we couldn't refuse.* **2** something which is offered: *an offer of £5 | He made a generous offer for the house.* —see also OFFERING **3 on offer** BrE || **on sale** AmE for sale, esp. cheaply: *They've got cornflakes on offer/on special offer this week.* **4 under offer** BrE (of a house, flat, etc., for sale) already having a possible buyer who has offered money —see REFUSE (USAGE)

off-fer-ing /'ɒfəɪŋ/ || 'ɔː-, 'ɑː- *n* something offered, esp. to God —see also BURNT OFFERING, PEACE OFFERING

off-fer-to-ry /'ɒfətəri/ || 'ɔːfətɔːri, 'ɑː- *n* (the collection of) the money people give during a religious service

off guard /,ɒ' -/ *adj* not paying attention, not ALERT: *These comments were made when she was off guard. | an off-guard moment*

off-hand /,ɒf'hænd-/ || 'ɔːf- *adv, adj* **1** careless or disrespectful in manner; CASUAL: *She was rather offhand (with me).* **2** at once; without time to think or prepare: *I can't give you the exact figures offhand.* — **~edly** *adv* — **~edness** *n* [U]

off-ice /'ɒfɪs/ || 'ɔː-, 'ɑː- *n* **1** [C] a room or building where written work, accounts, etc., are done (esp. in connection with a business or organization): *the manager's office | "Where's Dad?" "He's gone to the office."* | *The company is moving to new offices in central London. | Their new head office is in Tokyo. | during office hours* (=between about nine and five o'clock) | *office equipment* —see picture at OPENPLAN **2** [C] a place where a particular service is provided: *a ticket office* —see also BOX OFFICE, POST OFFICE **3** [C] BrE (usu. caps.) a government department: *the Foreign Office* **4** [C;U] a position of responsibility and power, esp. in government: *the office of President | to hold (public) office | Our party has been in/out of office for three years.* —see also GOOD OFFICES

office block /'ɒ -/ BrE || **office building** AmE /'ɒ -/ — *n* a large building divided into offices

office boy /'ɒ -/ **office girl** *fem.* — *n* a young person employed to do the less important work in an office

off-ice-hold-er /'ɒfɪs,həʊldə/ || 'ɔː-, 'ɑː- *n* one who holds a position, esp. in government

Office of Fair Trad-ing /,ɒ - - ' -/ (abbrev. **OFT**) [*the*] a British government organization whose job is to protect the public against unfair business practices

Office of Man-age-ment and Bud-get /,ɒ - - ,ɒ - - ' -/ (abbrev. **OMB**) [*the*] an American organization used by the president and his staff to help organize government departments and activities and to prepare the BUDGET (plan for using money)

office par-ty /,ɒ - ' -/ *n* a party held esp. on or just before Christmas Eve in the office of a firm or a government organization or at a place nearby. It is usu. a relaxed occasion in which employers and workers alike drink a lot of alcohol and behave less formally than usual towards each other. People sometimes make jokes about office parties because it is said that there is often a lot of sex and drunkenness.

off-ic-er /'ɒfɪsə/ || 'ɔː-, 'ɑː- *n* **1** a person in a position of command in the armed forces: *The officers live here, and the enlisted men over there.* —see also FLYING OFFICER, NCO **2** a person who holds a position of some importance, esp. in government, a business, or a club: *a local government officer | the Public Health Officer | a customs officer* —see also RETURNING OFFICER **3** a policeman: *Certainly, officer!* (AmE) *Officer Jones will help you.*

▷ USAGE **Civil servants** are people who work for the government, and an **official** is someone who works for a government or other large organization in a position of responsibility: *a meeting between civil servants from the Department of Transport and important railway officials.* An **officer** is usually a member of the armed forces in a position of command, or a member of the police force, but the word is sometimes used like **official**. A **clerk** is an office worker of fairly low rank.

This word is also used in American English for someone who works in a shop (a **sales clerk**), but in British English **shop assistant** is used.◀

officers' quar-ters /'... -/ *n* [P] buildings or rooms in a military camp etc. where officers live

of-fi-cial¹ /ə'fɪʃəl/ *n* a person who holds an OFFICE (4): *a union/government official* —see OFFICER (USAGE)

official² *adj* **1** of, from, or about a person in a position of power and responsibility: *an official position | official duties | You have to get official permission to build a new house. | an official inquiry into the cause of the accident* **2** made known publicly: *Their engagement is not official yet.* —opposite **unofficial** —see also OFFICIALLY

▷ USAGE Compare *an official letter about my income tax and a rather officious letter from my neighbour, complaining about the noise from my radio.*◀

Official Birth-day /,ɒ - ' -/ [*the*] the day (the second Saturday in June) when the Queen or King of England's birthday is officially celebrated; it is not her/his real birthday. The ceremonies of Trooping the Colour and giving the Birthday Honours take place on the Official Birthday.

of-fi-cial-dom /ə'fɪʃəldəm/ *n* [U] often derog officials as a group

of-fi-cial-ese /ə'fɪʃəl'iːz/ *n* [U] *informal* derog the language of government officials, considered unnecessarily hard to understand

official list /,ɒ - ' -/ *n* a list of current prices of STOCKS¹ (3) and SHARES¹ (2), printed daily by the London STOCK EXCHANGE

of-fi-cial-ly /ə'fɪʃəli/ *adv* **1** publicly and/or formally: *They have officially announced their engagement. | The new hospital was officially opened last week.* **2** according to what is stated publicly (but may not be true): *Officially, he's on holiday; actually, he's in hospital.* —opposite **unofficially**

official re-ceiv-er /,ɒ - - ' -/ *n* (often caps.) a RECEIVER (3)

Official Se-crets Act /,ɒ - - ' -/ [*the*] a law passed by the British Parliament which forbids people who work for the government to discuss their work with anyone who is not covered by the Act. Workers must sign a document in agreement to this, which is known as 'signing the Official Secrets Act', and they can be put in prison if they break this promise. —compare FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

of-fi-ci-ate /ə'fɪʃiət/ *v* [I (at)] to perform official duties: *Two priests officiated at the wedding.*

of-fi-cious /ə'fɪʃəs/ *adj* derog too eager to give orders or to offer advice: *An officious little guard came and told me not to whistle in the museum garden.* —see OFFICIAL (USAGE) — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

off-ing /'ɒfɪŋ/ || 'ɔː-, 'ɑː- *n* in the offing coming soon: *I think in her case a promotion is in the offing.*

off-li-cence /'ɒ -/ *n* BrE a shop where alcohol is sold to be taken away. It may also sell other things, e.g. newspapers and chocolates: *If you're going past the off-licence could you get me some beer and some crisps?*

off lim-its /,ɒ - ' -/ *adj* not open to anyone who does not have permission to enter, take part, etc.: *Off-limits areas of discussion | The officers' quarters are off limits to non-army personnel.*

off-line /'ɒflaɪn/ || 'ɔːf- *adj, adv* not directly connected to and/or controlled by a computer: *an offline terminal | Your job just knocked the printer offline.* —opposite **online**

off-load /,ɒ - ' -/ *v* [T (onto)] to get rid of (something unwanted): *We managed to off-load all those old typewriters (onto a friend of mine).*

off-peak /,ɒ - ' -/ *adj* **1** less busy: *Telephone charges are lower during off-peak periods.* **2** used or in effect during less busy periods: *off-peak electricity | Big reductions for off-peak holidays.* —compare PEAK¹ (3)

off-print /'ɒfprɪnt/ || 'ɔːf- *n* a separately printed article from a magazine: *offprints of articles about physics from "Scientific American"*

off-put-ting /'ɒ - ' -/ *adj* unpleasantly surprising and/or causing dislike: *I found his aggressive manner rather off-putting.* —see also PUT OFF

off-road ve-hi-cle /,ɒ - - ' -/ *n* a vehicle which is built very strongly, so that it may be used over rough ground where

there are no proper roads or none at all. In Britain, many people who spend most of their time in towns and cities still buy off-road vehicles because they are fashionable and look impressive.

off-set ¹ /'ɒfset, 'ɒf'set/ ² /'ɒf'set, 'ɒf'set/ *v* **offset**; present participle **offsetting** [T] to make up for; balance: *The cost of getting there was offset by the fact that the hotels are so cheap.* | *He offset his travel expenses against tax.*

off-set ² /'ɒfset/ ³ /'ɒf'set/ *n, adj* of or being a method of printing in which ink is moved onto rollers before it goes on the paper. Very many books, magazines, and newspapers are printed this way in Western countries.

off-shoot /'ɒfʃu:t/ ⁴ /'ɒf'sh- / *n* a new stem or branch: (fig.) *an offshoot of a large organization*

off-shore /'ɒfʃɔːr/ ⁵ /'ɒf'sh- / *adv, adj* **1** in the water, at a distance from the shore: *Britain's offshore oil* [after *n*] *two miles offshore* **2** (of financial matters) based abroad in countries where the tax system is more favourable than in the home country: *offshore banking* | *an offshore account/fund*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** This word has a negative meaning for some people who think that firms using offshore banks etc. are dishonestly avoiding paying tax in Britain. ◀

3 (coming or moving) away from the shore: *an offshore wind* —compare **INSHORE**, **ONSHORE**

off-side /'ɒf'saɪd/ ⁶ /'ɒf's- / *adj, adv* **1** (in certain sports) in a position in which play is not allowed: *That player is offside.* [after *n*] *She's two yards offside.* —opposite **onside** **2** [A *no comp.*] *esp. BrE* on the right-hand side, *esp.* of an animal or of a car or road: *the offside rear light of a car* —opposite **nearside**

off side /'ɒ. s- / *n* [the] the **OFF**⁴

off spin /'ɒ. s- / *n* [U] (in cricket) **SPIN** that makes a ball turn from the off (**OFF**⁴) side towards the leg (**LEG** (7)) side when it bounces (**BOUNCE**)

off-spring /'ɒf'sprɪŋ/ ⁷ /'ɒf's- / *n* **offspring** *fml or humor* (not with **an**) a child or children from particular parents, of a particular number, etc.: *They have several offspring.* | *Is this your offspring?*

off-stage /'ɒf'steɪdʒ/ ⁸ /'ɒf's- / *adv, adj* not on the open stage; out of sight of those watching a play: *He ran offstage.* | *a loud crash offstage*

off-street /'ɒ. s- / *adj* [A] away from the main streets (often in the phrase **off-street parking**)

off-the-cuff /'ɒ. t- / *adj, adv* (said) without thinking deeply before speaking, unprepared: *an off-the-cuff speech* | *remarks made off-the-cuff*

off-the-peg /'ɒ. t- / *BrE* || **off-the-rack** *AmE* *adj, adv* (of clothes, etc.) made to standard sizes and so easy to find: *She's slim and of average height, so she can buy her dresses off the peg.* | (fig.) *There are several off-the-peg forms for making your own will.* —compare **MADE-TO-MEASURE**, **OFF-THE-SHELF**

off-the-rec-ord /'ɒ. t- / *adj, adv* (given or made) unofficially and not to be written down in the notes of the meeting, publicly reported, etc.: *The Prime Minister's remarks were strictly off-the-record.* | *Off the record, I agree with your criticisms.*

off-the-shelf /'ɒ. t- / *adj, adv* *AmE* **READY-MADE** and available: *an off-the-shelf software package*

► **USAGE** *AmE* uses **off-the-rack** for clothes and **off-the-shelf** for most other things; *BrE* uses **off-the-peg** for both. —compare **OFF-THE-PEG** ◀

off-the-wall /'ɒ. t- / *adj* *infml, esp. AmE* amusingly foolish; *ZANY*: *This idea is really off-the-wall.*

off-track /'ɒftræk/ ⁹ /'ɒf's- / *adj* *AmE* away from a **RACETRACK**: *Only a few states allow offtrack betting.*

off-white /'ɒ. t- / *adj* having a colour that is not a pure white but has some grey or yellow in it —**off-white** *n* [U]

Of-gas, **OFGAS** /'ɒfgæs/ ¹⁰ /'ɒf's- / a British government organization which aims to make sure that there are no unfair or bad practices, and controls prices, in the gas industry —compare **OFTEL**, **OFWAT**

OFT /'əʊ ef 'tiː/ *abbrev. for*: OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

oft /ɒft/ ¹¹ /'ɒf't- / *adv* *poet* (usu. in comb.) often: *oft-repeated advice*

Of-tel, **OFTEL** /'ɒftel/ ¹² /'ɒf's- / the Office of Telecommunications; a British government organization which aims to

make sure that there are no unfair or bad practices, and controls prices, in the telecommunications industry —compare **OFGAS**, **OFWAT**

of-ten /'ɒfən, 'ɒftən/ ¹³ /'ɒz- / *adv* **1** many times: *"How often do you go there?" "Once a month, but I'd like to go more often."* | *I've often heard it said that he is the cleverest person in the government.* **2** in many cases: *Americans are often very tall.* | *It's often difficult to translate poems.* **3** **as often as not** quite often; at least half of the time **4** **do you come here often?** *humor* a phrase used by a man as a way of introducing himself to a woman he is interested in sexually. The humorous answer is "only in the mating (**MATE**²) season". **5** **every so often** from time to time **6** **more often than not** more than half of the time; usually: *More often than not she misses the bus.* —see **NEVER** (**USAGE**)

Of-wat, **OFWAT** /'ɒfwɒt/ ¹⁴ /'ɒzfwɒt, -wɒt/ a British government organization which aims to make sure that there are no unfair or bad practices, and controls prices, in the water supply industry —compare **OFGAS**, **OFTEL**

Og-den /'ɒgdən/ ¹⁵ /'ɑːg-, **Hil-da** /'hɪldə/ a character from British television's *Coronation Street* who is considered to be a **STEREOTYPE** of a British **WORKING-CLASS** woman. She always wears **CURLERS** and a **SCARF** on her head, and is known for being very interested in what other people are doing and wanting to talk about it and give her opinions.

Hilda Ogden



o-gle /'əʊgəl/ *v* [I (at); T] *derog* to look (at) with great interest, esp. sexual interest: *old men ogling young girls*

O grade /'əʊ greɪd/ *n* **1** [U] the lower level of the Scottish Certificate of Education **2** an examination of this standard in a particular subject: *She took eight O grades.* —compare **HIGHER**, **O LEVEL**

o-gre /'əʊgə/ || **o-gress** /'əʊgrɪs/ *fem.* — *n* **1** a fierce creature in children's stories, like a very large person, who is thought to eat children **2** a frightening person: *Our boss is a bit of an ogre.*

oh /əʊ/ *interj* **1** (expressing surprise, fear, etc.): *Oh, how dreadful!* | *Oh no, not again!* **2** (used before a name when calling someone): *Oh, David, come here a moment!*

OH *written abbrev. for*: OHIO

O'Ha-ra /əʊ'hɑːrə/ || -'hæ-, **Scar-lett** /'skɑːlɪt/ || 'skɑːr- the main female character (**HEROINE**) in the book and film *Gone With the Wind*, who was very clever and often cruel in getting the men and other things she wanted —see also **SOUTHERN BELLE** —see colour picture on page 685

O'Hare /əʊ'hɛə/ O'Hare International Airport; the airport which serves Chicago, in the US. It is the busiest airport in the world.

O-hi-o /əʊ'haiəʊ/ *written abbrev.* **OH** state in the **MIDWEST** of the US, known for its engineering and farming —see colour map on pages 1374–5

ohm /əʊm/ *n* *tech* the standard unit of electrical **RESISTANCE**, which allows one **AMP** to flow under a pressure of one **VOLT**

OHMS /'əʊ eɪtʃ em 'es/ *abbrev.* On Her (or His) Majesty's Service; (on letters, etc.) sent officially by the Civil Service, or government departments

o-ho /əʊ'həʊ/ *interj* *lit or old use* (expressing surprise or joy at success)

Oh Su-san-na /'əʊ suː'zænə/ an old popular American song

oil ¹ /ɔɪl/ *n* [U] **1** (often in comb.) any of several types of thick fatty liquid (from animals, plants, or under the ground) used for burning, making machines run easily, cooking, etc.: *olive oil* | *coconut oil* | *hair oil* **2** **PETROLEUM**: *The price of oil has gone up.* | *After drilling for several weeks they finally struck oil.* (=found it underground) | *the oil industry* —see also **OILS**, **OILY**, **burn the midnight oil** (**BURN**¹ (15)), **pour oil on troubled waters** (**POUR**)

oil² *v* [T] **1** to put or rub oil on or into: *to oil a bicycle* | *to oil the hinges to stop them squeaking* **2** *oil the wheels*

infml fig. to make things go more smoothly, esp. in business, sometimes by offering people illegal gifts of money, etc.

oil-bearing /'ɔɪlˌbeɪrɪŋ/ *adj* (esp. of areas underground) containing oil: *oil-bearing rock/strata*

oil-can /'ɔɪlkæn/ *n* an oil container (usu. with a long thin neck) used for oiling machinery

oil-cloth /'ɔɪlkloθ||-klɔːθ/ *n* [U] cloth treated with oil and used for covering tables, shelves, etc. because it is easy to WIPE clean

oil-field /'ɔɪlfɪld/ *n* an area under which there is oil: *oil-fields in the desert/under the North Sea*

oil-fired /'ɔɪlˌfaɪəd/ *adj* (esp. of a heating system) burning oil to produce heat

oil-man /'ɔɪlmən/ *n* -**men** /mən/ a worker or businessman in the oil industry

oil paint /'ɔɪlˌpeɪnt/ *n* [C;U] OILS

oil painting /'ɔɪlˌpeɪntɪŋ/ *n* 1 [U] the art or activity of painting in OILS 2 [C] a picture painted in OILS —compare WATER-COLOUR (3) 3 *BrE* **no oil painting** *infml*, often humor (someone or something that is) not at all beautiful

oil pan /'ɔɪlˌpæn/ *n* *AmE* for SUMP

oil-rig /'ɔɪlrɪɡ/ , also **oil plat-form** /'ɔɪlˌplɑːfm/ *n* a large piece of equipment for getting oil from underground, esp. from under the sea

oils /ɔɪlz/ *n* [P] paints (esp. for pictures) containing oil: *to paint in oils* —compare WATERCOLOUR

oil-skin /'ɔɪlˌskɪn/ *n* [C;U] (a garment made of) cloth treated with oil so that water will not pass through it: *a fisherman in oilskins*

oil slick /'ɔɪlˌslɪk/ also **slick**— *n* a usu. long, wide sheet of oil floating on water, esp. as a result of accident to an oil-carrying ship

oil tank-er /'ɔɪlˌtæŋkə/ *n* a ship with large containers for carrying oil

oil well /'ɔɪlˌwel/ *n* a hole made in the ground from which oil is obtained —see picture at DIAGRAM

oil-y /'ɔɪli/ *adj* 1 of, about, or like oil: *an oily liquid* 2 covered with or containing oil: *oily fried food/hair* 3 *derog* unpleasantly polite; UNCTUOUS: *an oily manner*

oink /ɔɪŋk/ *v* [I] *infml* to make the sound that a pig makes —**oink** *n*

oint-ment /'ɔɪntmənt/ *n* [C;U] an oily substance, often medicinal, to be rubbed on the skin —see also **fly in the ointment** (FLY³ (5))

OJ /,əʊˈdʒeɪ/ *n* [U] *AmE infml* orange juice: *Eggs over easy, hashbrowns, and a glass of OJ, please.*

O-jib-wa, Ojibway /əʊˈdʒɪbweɪ, -wə/ *n* [C; the+P] see CHIPPEWA

OK *written abbrev. for OKLAHOMA*

o-kay¹, **OK** /əʊˈkeɪ/ *adj, adv infml* 1 a all right: *The car's going okay now.* | *Is my hair okay?* | *Is it OK with/by you if I borrow this book?* | *“Sorry I'm late.” “That's OK.”* b satisfactory, but not wonderful: *“What was the film like?” “Oh, OK, I suppose.”* 2 (asking for or expressing agreement, or giving permission) all right; agreed: *Let's go there, okay?* | *“Can I use your car?” “OK.”* 3 **OK, yah** (an expression of agreement thought to be typically said by YUPPIES and HOORAY HENRYS)

okay², **OK** *v* **okayed**, **OKed**; **okaying**, **OKing** [T] *infml* to agree to; give permission to: *Has the bank okayed your request for a loan?*

okay³, **OK** *n* **okays**, **OKs** *infml* approval; permission: *I got the OK to leave early.*

OK Cor-ral /,əʊ keɪ kəˈræl||-ˈræl/ a CORRAL (an enclosure for horses) in the town of Tombstone, Arizona, in 1881 the scene of a famous gunfight in which the SHERIFF, Virgil Earp, with his brothers Wyatt and Morgan, and Doc Holliday, fought against the Clanton GANG. Three of the Clanton gang were killed but the leader, Ike, and another escaped. The people of Tombstone dismissed Virgil Earp as sheriff because they believed that the Earps were not fighting crime but had murdered the Clantons, with whom they had had many disagreements. The story was made into a well-known film, *Gunfight at the OK Corral*, and this phrase is sometimes used humorously by someone talking about a fight involving several people: *It was*

more like the gunfight at the OK Corral than a football match

O-kee-cho-bee /,əʊkɪˈtʃəbi/, **Lake** a large lake of fresh water in S Florida, US. Water flows from it into the Atlantic Ocean through the Everglades.

O'Keeffe /əʊˈkiːf/, **Georgia** (1887–1986) an American artist most remembered for her large, beautiful paintings of flowers and animal bones

O-ke-fe-no-kee Swamp /,əʊkɪfəˈnəʊki ˈswɒmp||-ˈswɑːmp/ a large area of SWAMP land in the US, in SE Georgia and NE Florida. It is the home of many ALLIGATORS and many kinds of snake and bird. Most of the area is now included in the **Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge**.

o-key-doke /,əʊki ˈdəʊk/ also **okey-do-key** /-ˈdəʊki/— *adj, adv infml* OKAY¹

O-kie /'əʊki/ *n* *AmE infml* often *derog* 1 a person from Oklahoma 2 an uneducated person with narrow opinions; HICK

Ok-i-na-wa /,ɒkɪˈnɑːwə||,əʊ-/ an island in the W Pacific Ocean, SW of Kyushu, Japan, the scene of fierce fighting between American and Japanese forces during 1945

O-klā-ho-ma /,əʊkləˈhəʊmə/ *written abbrev. OK* a state in the Great Plains of the US, noted for its minerals and its large Native American population. Its farm lands became part of the DUST BOWL in the 1930s. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Oklahoma! the title of a MUSICAL² by Rodgers and Hammerstein. It was a great success in the US and Britain in the 1950s and was also made into a film.

Oklahoma Cit-y /,ɒkɪˈlɑːmɑː/ the state capital of Oklahoma, US, established in one night in 1889 —see colour map on pages 1374–5

o-kra /'ɒkrə, 'əʊ-||'əʊ-/ also **lady's fingers**— *n* [U] a long thin green vegetable which is the seed POD of a flower thought of by many Britons as an unusual vegetable

old /əʊld/ *adj* 1 having lived or existed for a long time: *an old man* | *a big old house* | *old and young people* | *old and new books/ideas* | *an old British tradition* [also *n*, the+P] *The old* (=old people) *and the young do not always understand each other.* 2 (of things) having existed or been in use long enough to show signs of use or be no longer fresh: *old shoes* | *an old car* | *This bread is a bit old.* | *She always gives the same old speech.* 3 having a particular age; of age: *You're old enough to dress yourself now.* | *Is your car as old as/older than mine?* [after *n*] *“How old is the baby?” “She's eight months old.”* | *a 16-year-old girl* 4 [A] having continued in the relationship for a long time: *We are (very) old friends.* | *She's an old schoolfriend of mine.* 5 [A no comp.] former: *He got his old job back.* 6 [A] known for a long time: *an old joke* | *the old familiar routine* | *Good old John!* 7 [A no comp.] *infml* (used for making any stronger): *Come any old time.* 8 (as) **old as the hills** very old 9 **for 'old times' sake** because of or as a reminder of happy times in the past 10 **of old**: a lit long ago; in the past: *days of old* b rare since a long time ago: *I know him of old.* 11 **you're as old as you feel** a phrase often used to make someone feel happier if they are sad because they think they are getting too old 12 **you're never too old to learn** an old saying

▷ **USAGE** When speaking of people, **elderly** is a polite way of saying **old**. Compare *an old church* and *an old/elderly lady*. —see also ELDER (USAGE)◀

Old *adj* [A] (of a language) of an early period in the history of the language: *Old English* | *Old Irish* —compare MIDDLE, MODERN¹ (3)

old age /,ɒˈleɪ/ *n* [U] the part of one's life when one is old: *He was still active in (his) old age.* | *The effects of old age.*

old age pen-sion /,ɒˈleɪ ˈpeɪnʃən/ also **retirement pension**— *n* [(the) U] *esp. BrE* money paid regularly by the state to old people —see also OAP — ~ *er n*

Old Bai-ley /,əʊld ˈbeɪli/ also **Central Criminal Court**— [the] the CROWN COURT (=the court above the MAGISTRATES' COURT for trying criminal cases) for Greater London, actually named after the street (**Old Bailey**) in which it is to be found. Many famous criminals, including murderers and TRAITORS, have been tried at the Old Bailey, and most British people are familiar with the name and with the figure of JUSTICE on top of the building. —see picture on page 751 and colour map on page 817

Old Bill /ɒlˌbɪl/ also **the Bill**— *n* [the+P] *BrE infml*; often *derog* the police

old boy /ɒlˌbɔɪ/ (for 1), ɒlˌbɔɪz/ (for 2,3) *n* **1** *BrE* a man who is a former pupil of a school **2** also **oldchap/fellow/man**— *old-fashion infml* (used as a form of address to a male friend): *I say, old boy, could you lend me a fiver?* **3** *infml* an old man: *the old boy from down the road*

old-boy network /ɒlˌbɔɪˈnetwɜːk/ [the] often *derog* **1** the system by which men who are former pupils of the same school, the same education system (esp. of the English PUBLIC SCHOOLS), or the same wealthy families favour each other in later life and help each other to get jobs, etc., usu. in an unofficial way: *He got where he is through the old-boy network.* **2** [+sing./pl. v] the people who operate this system —compare OLD SCHOOL TIE (2)

Old Bull and Bush /ɒlˌbʊlˈændˌbʊʃ/ **The** a pub in Hampstead, N London, well known because it is mentioned in an old popular song called *Down at the Old Bull and Bush*

old-e /ɒlˌdi/ *adj* often *humor* a spelling of **old** used (to give the feeling of being) in former times: *ye olde tea shoppe*

old-en /ɒlˌdɛn/ *adj* [A] esp. *old use* past; long ago: *in olden times*

Ol-den-burg /ɒlˌdɛnbɜːrg/—bɜːrg/, **Claes** /kleɪs/ (1929–) an American SCULPTOR, born in Sweden, important in the POP ART movement and famous for his large SCULPTURES of small, ordinary objects, often made of soft materials

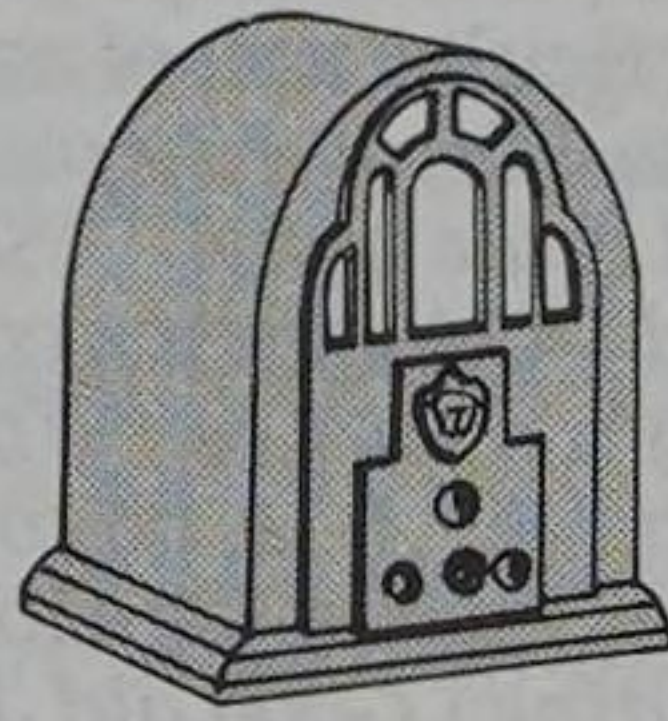
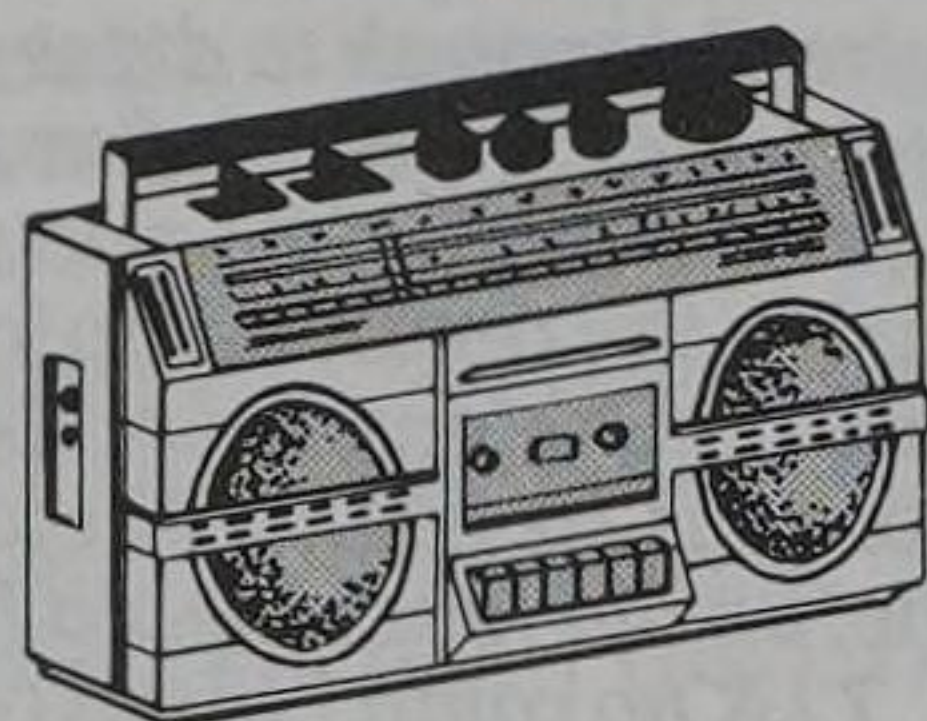
Old English Sheep-dog /ɒlˌɪŋɡlɪʃˈsheɪpˌdɒɡ/ *BrE* || **English Sheepdog** *AmE*— *n* a breed of dog formerly used to control sheep, with a grey and white coat, and thick hair which is usu. allowed to grow long and cover the eyes. In Britain, the Old English Sheepdog appears in advertisements for Dulux paint and is sometimes called the “Dulux dog” because of this. —see picture at DOG

Old E-to-ni-an /ɒlˌdiːtəʊniən/ *n* *BrE* a man who was a schoolboy from Eton College, usu. thought of as from a wealthy and PRIVILEGED background

old-e world-e /ɒlˌdiːˈwɜːldiː/—wɜːldiː/ *adj* *BrE infml*, sometimes *derog* too consciously old-fashioned; QUAIN: *an olde worlde country pub* —compare old-world

Old Faith-ful /ɒlˌfaɪðfʊl/ a large GEYSER in Yellowstone National Park, US, that sends a JET of hot water into the air at regular times

old-fashioned



an old-fashioned radio

old-fash-ioned /ɒlˌfæʃɪnd/ *adj* **1** once usual or fashionable but now less common: *old-fashioned equipment/ideas* | “Wireless” is an old-fashioned word for “radio”. **2** [A] *BrE infml* (of a look, expression, etc.) suggesting disapproval: *She gave me one of those old-fashioned looks.*

old flame /ɒlˌflaɪm/ *n* someone with whom one used to be in love: *Edward’s an old flame of mine.*

old folk /ɒlˌfɔːk/ *n* [P] *infml* old people considered as a group, esp. when speaking of them in a SENTIMENTAL way: *We always try and do something for the old folk at Christmas.*

old folk’s home /ɒlˌfɔːksˈhoʊm/ *n* an OLD PEOPLE’S HOME

old girl /ɒlˌɡɜːl/ (for 1), ɒlˌɡɜːlz/ (for 2) *n* **1** *infml* an old woman: *She’s a nice old girl.* **2** a woman who is a former pupil of a school: *a reunion for old girls*

Old Glo-ry /ɒlˌɡlɔːri/ *n* *AmE* the flag of the US —see also STARS AND STRIPES, STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

old guard /ɒlˌɡɑːd/ *n* [the+S+sing./pl. v] (a group of) old-fashioned people within an organization or society who are against new ideas, change, etc.: *The old guard very much dislike(s) his new sculpture.*

old hand /ɒlˌhænd/ *n* [(at)] a very experienced person: *an old hand at fishing*

old hat /ɒlˌhæt/ *adj* [F] *infml derog* familiar, old-fashioned, and unexciting: *My children say loud rock ‘n’ roll is old hat.*

old-ish /ɒlˌdɪʃ/ *adj* rather old

old la-dy /ɒlˌleɪdi/ also **old woman**— *n* [(the) S] *sl* **1** one’s wife: *Have you met the/my old lady?* **2** one’s mother

Old La-dy of Thread-nee-dle Street /ɒlˌleɪdiˈɒvˌθreɪdˌniːdlˌstriːt/ [the] a NICKNAME for the Bank of England, from Threadneedle Street in London where it stands

old lag /ɒlˌlæɡ/ *n* *infml*, esp. *BrE* an old or former prisoner

old maid /ɒlˌmeɪd/ *n* *derog* **1** an unmarried woman who is no longer young. The STEREOTYPE of an old maid is of an unpleasant, unattractive woman who is too concerned with unimportant details. She is typically thought of as being shocked by anything to do with sex, but there are also many jokes about old maids having sex with men who are not willing. **2** *infml* a person who is very careful about small matters: *He was a real old maid about picking up litter.* — ~ish *adj*

old man /ɒlˌmæn/ *n* **1** [(the) S] *sl* one’s husband: *Have you met the/my old man?* **2** [(the) S] *sl* one’s father: *My old man wants me to be an engineer, like him.* **3** also **old boy/chap/fellow**— *old-fashion infml* (used as a form of address to a friend): *Hello, old man. How’s the wife?*

Old Man of the Sea /ɒlˌmænˈɒvˌðəˈsiː/ **The** a character in the story of *Sindbad the Sailor*, who persuades Sindbad to carry him on his back then twists his legs around so that Sindbad cannot get him off. Sindbad makes the old man drunk with wine, drops him, and kills him.

old mas-ter /ɒlˌmɑːstə/ *n* (a picture by) an important painter of former times, esp. of the 15th to 18th century: *a priceless collection of old masters*

Old Moth-er Hub-bard /ɒlˌmʌðəˈhʌbəd/ a character in a NURSERY RHYME (=an old poem or story for children):

*Old Mother Hubbard, she went to the cupboard
To get her poor dog a bone;
But when she got there, the cupboard was bare,
And so the poor dog had none.*

Old Nick /ɒlˌnɪk/ *infml humor* the devil

old peo-ple’s home /ɒlˌpiːpl̩zˈhoʊm/ also **old folks’ home** *infml*— *n* a place where old people can live together and receive special care —see also RESIDENTIAL CARE (CULTURE NOTE)

old po-ta-to /ɒlˌpəʊtətoʊ/ *n* a potato kept in store from the previous year’s crop

Old Pre-tend-er /ɒlˌpriːtendə/ [the] see James Francis Edward STUART

old school /ɒlˌskuːl/ *n* of the old school old-fashioned; keeping to old ideas: *parents of the old school who don’t let their children stay up late*

old school tie /ɒlˌskuːlti/ *n* esp. *BrE* **1** [C] a special TIE that is worn by someone who has been at a certain school, esp. a PUBLIC SCHOOL **2** [the+S] often *derog* a support system among former pupils of the same school in later life: *He’s not very clever but he got the job — I’m afraid it’s a case of the old school tie.* —compare OLD-BOY NETWORK

Olds-mo-bile /ɒlˌdzməʊbɪl/ *n* [C;U] (a vehicle made by) an American company producing large, comfortable cars, a part of General Motors

old-ster /ɒlˌdstɜː/ *n* *infml*, often *humor* an old person

Old Tes-ta-ment /ɒlˌtɛstəˈment/ [the] the first part of the Bible, containing ancient Hebrew writings about events before the birth of Christ —compare NEW TESTAMENT

old-tim-er /ɒlˌtɪmə/ *n* **1** a person who has been in a particular place, job, etc., for a long time: *Jackson’s one of the old-timers in this department.* **2** esp. *AmE* an old man

Old Traf-ford /ɒlˌtræfəd/—fərd/ a football and cricket ground in SW Manchester, N England, the home of the football team Manchester United and the Lancashire Cricket Club

Old Un-cle Tom Cob-bleigh /ɒlˌʌŋkəlˈtɒmˈkɒbliː/—tɔːmˈkɑː/ *BrE* see Old Uncle Tom COBBLEIGH

Old Vic /ɒlˌvɪk/ [the] a London theatre originally opened in 1818, the full name of which is the Royal Victoria Theatre

old wives’ tale /ɒlˌwɪvzˈteɪl/ *n* an ancient and not necessarily true belief: *They say carrots are good for your eyesight, but it’s just an old wives’ tale.*

old wom-an /ɒlˌwʊmən/ *n* *sl* **1** [(the) S] OLD LADY **2** [C] *derog* a person (usu. a man) who is too careful about small matters and/or easily frightened —old-womanish *adj*

Old Wom-an Who Lived in a Shoe /ˌoʊ.əl.də.ˈwɒn.who.lɪvɪd.ɪn.ə.ʃuː/, The a character in a NURSERY RHYME (=old song or poem for children):

*There was an old woman who lived in a shoe,
Who had so many children
she didn't know what to do...*

old-world /ˌoʊ.əl.də.ˈwɜːld/ *adj* [A] *apprec* (of places, qualities, etc.) attractively old; **QUAINT**: *old-world charm/streets* —compare OLDE WORLDE

Old World /ˌoʊ.əl.də.ˈwɜːld/ [*the*] Europe, Asia, and Africa; the Eastern Hemisphere —compare NEW WORLD

o-le-ag-i-nous /ˌoʊ.li.ə.dʒ.ɪ.nəs/ *adj tech* oily; fatty

o-le-an-der /ˌoʊ.li.ə.ˈænd.ə/ *n* [C;U] a green bush from the Mediterranean area with white, red, or pink flowers

o-le-o /ˌoʊ.li.ə/ also **o-le-o-mar-ga-rine** /ˌoʊ.li.ə.mɑːr.dʒ.əˈriːn, -mɑːr.dʒ.ə/ — *fm* — *n* [U] *AmE infml* MARGARINE

O lev-el /ˌoʊ.əl/ also **ordinary level** — *n* 1 [U] (before 1988) the lower of the two standards of examination in the British GCE 2 [C] an examination of this standard in a particular subject: *She took six O levels.* | *He's got O level maths.* —compare A LEVEL, GCSE, O GRADE

ol-fac-to-ry /ˌɒl.fæk.tə.ri/ *adj med or humor* of or about the sense of smell: *the olfactory organ* (=the nose)

ol-i-garch /ˌɒl.ɪ.ɡɑːrk/ *n* a member of an OLIGARCHY (3)

ol-i-gar-chy /ˌɒl.ɪ.ɡɑːr.ki/ *n* 1 [U] government by a small group of people, often for their own interests 2 [C] a state governed by a small group 3 [C+*sing./pl. v*] the group who govern such a state

O Lit-tle Town of Beth-le-hem /ˌoʊ.lɪ.tl̩.taʊn.əv.bɛθ.l̩.ˈhɛm/ the title and first line of a well known Christmas CAROL (=a religious song sung at Christmas):

*O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by.*

olive /ˌɒl.ɪv/ *n* 1 [C] a tree grown in Mediterranean countries, which has a small bitter-tasting egg-shaped fruit: *an olive grove* 2 [C] the fruit of this tree, used for food and also for its oil —see picture at FRUIT 3 [U] also **olive green** /ˌɒl.ɪv.ɡrɪn/ — dull pale green

olive branch /ˌɒl.ɪv.brʌnʃ/ *n* [S] a sign of peace; esp. in the phrase **hold out an/the olive branch** (=to make a sign of peace).

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the Bible story of the Flood, Noah let out a DOVE which came back with a small piece of an olive tree. This showed that the water was beginning to go down. The olive branch was therefore regarded as a sign that the loving relationship between God and man had been re-established. The dove is also a sign of peace, and is often pictured carrying a small olive branch. —see also FLOOD ◀

olive drab /ˌɒl.ɪv.dɹæb/ *adj esp. AmE* having a greyish-green colour, used esp. for military uniforms —**olive drab** *n* [U]

olive oil /ˌɒl.ɪv.oɪl/ *n* [U] a pale greenish-yellow oil obtained from olives, used in cooking and for making SALAD DRESSINGS

Ol-iver Twist /ˌɒl.ɪv.ər.twɪst/ a book by Charles Dickens. Oliver Twist is a poor boy brought up in the WORKHOUSE. The most famous scene in the book is when he holds out his bowl and asks for more food, for which he is punished. He escapes and is taken in by Fagin, a thief who has a group of young boys, led by the Artful Dodger, who steal for him. Oliver will not steal, but is forced by Bill Sikes, a cruel thief, to help him get into a house. Finally Sikes is killed, Fagin is caught and Oliver is brought up by a good man, Mr Brownlow. The MUSICAL² *Oliver* was based on this story. —see colour picture on page 1145

Laurence Olivier
as Hamlet



Ol-ives /ˌɒl.ɪvz/ *n* —see MOUNT OF OLIVES

Ol-iv-i-er /ˌɒl.ɪv.i.ər/ *Sir Laur-ence* /ˌlɒr.əns/ (1907–89) also **Lar-ry** /ˈlæ.ri/ English actor thought of by many people as the greatest of the 20th century. He

appeared in the theatre and in many films. He was the first director of the National Theatre, and the first actor to be made a LIFE PEER. Most people know his films of Shakespeare's plays *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, and *Richard III*.

O-lym-pi-a /əˈlɪmp.i.ə/ 1 a set of large buildings in W London, used for EXHIBITIONS 2 an ancient Greek religious centre in the W Peloponnese, S Greece, where the OLYMPIC GAMES were held

O-lym-pi-ad /əˈlɪmp.i.əd/ *n fml* a particular occasion of the modern Olympic Games: *The 14th Olympiad was held in London.*

O-lym-pi-an /əˈlɪmp.i.ən/ *n* in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, one of the ancient Greek gods —see OLYMPUS

Olympian² *adj* [*no comp.*] 1 in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, like or of the ancient Greek gods 2 (*often not cap.*) like a god, esp. in being calm and untroubled by ordinary affairs: *He cultivates an olympian detachment.* —see OLYMPUS

O-lym-pic /əˈlɪmp.ɪk/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] of the Olympic Games: *an Olympic runner*

Olympic Games /ˌɒl.ɪmp.ɪk.ɡeɪmz/ also **O-lym-pics** /əˈlɪmp.ɪks/ — *n* **Olympic Games** [(the) C+*sing./pl. v*] 1 a modern international sports event in which people of all nationalities compete in various sports, held once every four years in different countries. It is seen by many people as a symbol of countries coming together to compete with each other in a friendly way. —see also colour picture on page 883 2 (In ancient times) a sports event held at Olympia in Greece once every four years

O-lym-pus¹ /əˈlɪmp.əs/ also **Mount Olympus** — in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the mountain on which the ancient Greek gods were said to live, the highest place that could be imagined: (fig.) *Come down off Mount Olympus and have a look at the real world of ordinary people!*

Olympus² *tdmk* a camera made by the Japanese company Olympus

om /əʊm/ a MANTRA (religious word) used in MEDITATION (the act of thinking deeply and calmly for religious reasons), esp. in the Hindu religion

OM /ˌəʊ.ˈem/ *abbrev. for:* ORDER OF MERIT

O-man /əʊˈmɑːn/ an independent SULTANATE in the SE of Arabia, bordering on the Arabian Sea; capital Muscat; population 1,422,000 (1989) —**Omani** *n, adj*

O-mar Khay-yám /ˌəʊ.mɑː.kaiˈæm/ — *ɑːr kaiˈjɑːm* (1048?–1123?) a Persian MATHEMATICIAN and poet known for his poem *Rubaiyat*, which is mainly about love and nature

OMB /ˌəʊ.ɛm.ˈbiː/ OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

om-buds-man /ˌɒmbʊdzmən/ *n* —**men** /mən/ a person appointed by an institution (such as a government or a university) to receive and report on complaints made by ordinary people against the services of that institution. In Britain the government Ombudsman is officially called the **Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration**, and examines complaints against government organizations, including the National Health Service. There is also a Local Ombudsman who examines complaints against local authorities.

o-me-ga /ˌəʊ.mɪ.ɡə/ *n* the last letter (Ω, ω) of the Greek alphabet —see also ALPHA AND OMEGA

ome-lette, **-let** /ˌɒm.lɪt/ *n* 1 eggs beaten together and cooked in hot fat, sometimes with other foods added: *a cheese omelette* 2 **you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs** *saying* it is impossible to do or achieve anything, esp. something new, without hurting or offending someone or causing some kind of difficulty

o-men /ˌəʊ.mən/ *n* [(of)] a sign that something is going to happen in the future: *When it rained on their wedding day she took it as a bad omen.* —see also ILL-OMENED

om-i-nous /ˌɒm.ɪ.nəs/ *adj* giving a warning of something bad that is going to happen: *ominous black clouds* | *an ominous silence* — *~ly adv*

o-mis-sion /əʊˈmɪʃən/ *n* 1 [U] the act of omitting: *She complained about the omission of her name from the list.* 2 [C] something or someone omitted: *There are some surprising omissions in this report|this list of candidates.*

o-mit /əʊˈmɪt/ *v* —**tt** — [T] 1 to not include, by mistake or on purpose; leave out: *In writing this report I have omitted all unnecessary details.* 2 [+to-v|v-ing; obj] to fail to

do something, by mistake or on purpose: *He omitted to tell me when he was leaving.*

omni- see WORD FORMATION

om-ni-bus ¹ /'ɒmnɪbəs, -'bʌs/ ¹ *n* 1 a book containing several works, esp. by one writer, which have already been printed separately: *a Dickens omnibus* | *the omnibus edition of the soap opera* (=more than one show seen together) —compare ANTHOLOGY 2 *old use for BUS* ¹ (1)

omnibus ² *adj* doing, providing, or dealing with many different things at once: *an omnibus training program for teachers, translators and guides*

om-nip-o-tent /ɒm'nɪpətənt/ *adj fml* (esp. of God) having unlimited power; able to do anything —**tence** *n* [U]

om-ni-pres-ent /,ɒmnɪ'prezənt/ *adj fml* present everywhere —**ence** *n* [U]

om-nis-ci-ent /ɒm'nɪʃənt, -'nɪʃənt/ *adj fml* (esp. of God) knowing everything —**ence** *n* [U]

om-niv-o-rous /ɒm'nɪvərəs/ *adj fml or tech* 1 (esp. of animals) eating everything, esp. both plant and animal food —compare CARNIVORE, HERBIVORE, INSECTIVORE 2 interested in everything, esp. in all books: *an omnivorous reader*

on ¹ /ɒn/ *prep* 1 also **upon** *fml*— (showing position in relation to a surface or supported by a surface): *a lamp on the table/the wall* | *a ring on my finger* | *You've got mud on your shoes.* | *He jumped on/onto the horse.* | *The ball hit me on the head.* | *on page 23* (not *upon page 23*) | (fig.) *I wonder what's on his mind?* (=what is worrying him) (compare *I wonder what's in his mind?*) 2 also **upon** *fml*— supported by, hanging from, or connected to: *to stand on one foot* | *a ball on a string* | *the wheels on my car* | *We aren't on the telephone.* (=we have no telephone *BrE* | we aren't using the telephone *AmE*) 3 also **upon** *fml*— a to; towards; in the direction of: *on my right* | *to march on Rome* | *to make an attack on the enemy* b concerning or influencing: *a tax on cigarettes* 4 also **upon** *fml*— a at the edge of; along: *a town (right) on the river/on the border* | *trees on both sides of the street* | (*AmE*) *He lives on Mulberry Street.* | (*AmE*) *What street did you say you lived on?* | (*AmE*) *I met her on the street the other day.* b (used with words about travelling): *on a journey* | *I'm on my way to school.* 5 during; at the time of: *They arrive on Tuesday.* (*AmE* also *They arrive Tuesday.*) | *on July 1st* | *on the morning of July 1st* | *She was rushed to hospital but was dead on arrival.* | *on the hour* (=every hour at exactly 2 o'clock, 3 o'clock, etc.) (compare *in the morning, in 1985, at 6 o'clock*) 6 also **upon** *fml*— directly after (and often as a result of): *acting on your advice* | *On hearing the news, she burst into tears.* | **On second thoughts** (=after some consideration), *let's not bother going out.* —compare IN ¹ (19) 7 also **upon** *fml*— with regard to; about: *a book on India* | *a lecture on philosophy* | *new evidence on the matter* | *keen on football* —see USAGE 8 using as a means of travelling: *on foot/horseback* | *on a ship* | *on the 9 o'clock train* (compare *in a car, by ship, by train*) 9 by means of: *They live on potatoes.* | *A car runs on petrol.* | *to hear it on the radio* | *to speak on the telephone* (compare *by telephone*) | *He cut his foot on* (=against) *a piece of glass.* 10 supported by: *He went round the world on the money his aunt gave him.* | *on the dole/on welfare.* | (*infml*) *She's on drugs.* (=uses them and depends on them) 11 (before a noun or **the**) in a state or process of: *on fire* | *on sale* | *on holiday* | *Unemployment is on the increase.* (=is increasing) | *on offer* | *on purpose* (compare *by accident*) 12 working for; belonging to: *to serve on a committee* | *a job on a newspaper* | *Which side was he on in the game?* 13 also **upon** *fml*— (between repeated words for unpleasant things) added to; after: *to suffer defeat on defeat* | *Wave upon wave of enemy soldiers poured into the town.* 14 by comparison with: *a big improvement on your last essay* | *Sales are up on last year's figures.* 15 *infml* (before PRONOUNS) with: *Have you any money on you?* 16 *infml* paid for by: *Drinks are on me!* 17 *infml* causing difficulty or inconvenience to: *I'd just got through to her when the phone went dead on me.* | *The car broke down on us.* 18 **have/get something on someone** *sl* to have/get information that can be used against someone: *The police have nothing on me.*

▷ USAGE A book **on** rabbits is probably more formal and scientific than a book **about** rabbits which might, for example, be a children's story. ◁

on ² *adv, adj* [F] 1 continuously; not stopping: *We worked*

on (and on) all night. | *He just kept on talking.* 2 further in space or time; forward: *If you walk on you'll come to the church.* | *If any letters come, shall I send them on?* (=to your new address) | *It's time to move on.* | *I'll do it later on.* (=afterwards) | (*BrE*) *to put the clock on* (=so that it shows a later time) 3 (so as to be) connected or in place: *with his coat on* | *He had nothing* (=no clothes) *on.* | *The bus stopped, and we got on.* | *I fixed the handle back on.* 4 with the stated part in front: *The two cars crashed head on.* 5 (esp. of a machine or electrical apparatus) working; operating: *Turn the light/the taps on.* | *Is the TV on?* (fig.) *He has only two speeds, on and off.* —opposite **off** compare IN ³ (4) 6 (of something that has been arranged) happening or going to happen: *There's a new film on at the cinema.* | *I've nothing on tonight, so let's go out.* —compare OFF ¹ (9) 7 (of actors) actually performing on the stage: *You're on in two minutes!* 8 **be on about** *BrE infml & usu. derog* to keep talking, esp. in a dull way and for too long, about: *What's he on about now?* 9 **be on at** (someone) *infml* to keep trying to persuade someone in a complaining way: *She's always on at me to have my hair cut.* 10 **not on** *infml, esp. BrE* impossible; not acceptable or reasonable: *You can't refuse to help her now — it's just not on!* 11 **on and off** also **off and on**— from time to time; sometimes 12 **on and on** without stopping —see also ONTO, and so on (AND)

on ³ also **on side**— *n* [*the*+S] (in cricket) LEG ¹ (7)

on-air /'ɒn.ə/ *adj* [A] broadcast while actually happening: *an on-air interview*

O-nas-sis /əʊ'næsɪs/, Aristotle (Socrates) (1906?–75) a Greek, the best known member of the largest and richest family of ship owners in the world, who in 1968 married the widow of President John F Kennedy

once ¹ /wʌns/ *adv* 1 one time and no more: *We've met only once.* | *They go there once a week.* 2 at some time in the past; formerly: *He once lived in Rome.* | *The town isn't as big as it was once* (*fml*) *as once it was.* | *this once-great nation* 3 **once again** now again, as in the past: *With this new book she has once again proved her remarkable talent.* 4 **once and for all** for the last time: *Let's try to solve this problem once and for all.* 5 **once in a while** sometimes, but not often: *I still see my ex-wife once in a while.* 6 **once more**: a one more time b now again as before: *John's back home once more.* 7 **once or twice** several times; a few times: *I've been there once or twice.* 8 **once upon a time** (used to begin a story for small children) at some time in the past: *Once upon a time there was a little girl, and her name was Alice.* —see also **all at once** (ALL ²)

once ² *n* 1 [*this/the*+S] one time; one occasion: *Do it just this once.* | *She did it just the once, and once was enough.* 2 **at once**: a now; without delay: *Do it at once!* b at the same time; together: *Don't all talk at once!* 3 (**just**) **for once** for this one time only: *For once he was telling the truth.*

once ³ *conj* from the moment that; when: *Once she arrives, we can start.* | *Once in bed, the children usually stay there.*

Once in Roy-al Da-vid's Cit-y /'ɒn.ɪn.ɪ.ə.əl.ˈda.vɪd.ɪz.ˈsɪt.i/ the title and first line of a very well-known Christmas CAROL (=a religious song sung at Christmas)

once-o-ver /'ɒn.ə.ˈvɜː/ *n* give something a/the once-over *infml* to look at something quickly: *He gave the car the once-over and decided not to buy it.*

on-com-ing /'ɒn.kə.mɪŋ/ *adj* [A] coming towards one; advancing: *facing the oncoming traffic* | (fig.) *the oncoming winter*

one ¹ /wʌn/ *determiner, n* 1 (the number) 1: *Only one person came.* | *twenty-one* | *one thousand six hundred* (1600) | *one o'clock* | *page one* | *one pound fifty pence* (=£1.50) | *to combine two substances into one* (substance) | *There were three letters and one* (of them) *was for you.* | *one third* (=1/3) *of the Earth's surface is land and two thirds is sea.* | *one of your friends* (=a friend of yours) 2 a certain, esp. a (before times): *I met her one day/one afternoon in June.* | *early one morning* b *fml* (before a name, esp. of a person not known to the speaker): *The victim of the crime was one Arthur Nesbitt.* 3 (esp. before past or future times) some: *Come again one day soon.* (=some day soon) 4 [(with)] the same: *Do you think we can all fit into the one room?* | *They are of one mind.* (=of the same opinion) | *I am one with you/of one mind with you on this.* 5 (the) only: *She's the one person I trust.* | *He's my one and only*

(=my only) *friend*. **6** (as opposed to **another**, **the other**, etc.) a particular example or type (of): *He can't tell one tree from another.* | *One (of them) went North, the other went South.* | *Are we taking all these children? One or other is sure to be sick!* **7** *AmE infml* certainly a(n); an unusually: *I tell you, she's one wonderful girl!* **8** also **single** *AmE* a one-dollar bill: *Have you got five ones for five?* | *Give me the five back, I'll give you three ones and the right change.* **9** a **one old** *infml*, esp. *BrE* (expressing shocked admiration) an amusingly disrespectful person: *Oh, you are a one!* **10** a **'right one old** *infml*, esp. *BrE* a fool: *You're a right one, losing the tickets again!* **11** as **one (man)** *fml* all together; with the agreement of everyone **12** **at one (with)** *fml* in agreement (with): *We, the opposition, are at one with the government on this (issue).* **13** **be one up (on someone)** to have the advantage (over someone) — see also **ONE-UPMANSHIP** **14** **for one** as one (person, reason, etc.) of perhaps several: *I for one think he's guilty.* | *For one thing, it costs too much.* **15** **in one**: a also **all in one** — combined; together: *She's president and secretary (all) in one.* **b** *infml* in only one attempt: *She did it in one!* **16** **in ones and twos** a few at a time **17** **one after the other/after another** singly; first one, then the next, etc. **18** **one and all** every one: *The bride was cheerfully welcomed by one and all.* **19** **one and the same** exactly the same: *In fact the soldier and the priest were one and the same person.* **20** **one for all and all for one** quote the phrase used by the Three Musketeers in the book by Alexandre Dumas to show that they would all support and protect each other **21** **one for the road** *infml* a last drink (usu. alcoholic) before going home **22** **one of** a member of (a group): *Our dog is like one of the family.* **23** **one or two** a few: *I've invited one or two friends round this evening.* **24** **one-** having only one: *one-armed* | *one-eyed* | *a one-parent family* (=with either a mother or father, but not both) | *a one-man boat* — see also **ONE-TO-ONE**

one² *pron* **1** (*pl. ones*) (used instead of a noun or noun phrase that describes a single thing or person): *Have you any books on farming? I'd like to borrow one.* (=a book on farming) | *I've got several books: which one/which ones would you like?* (compare *I know you've got a lot of books and I'd like to borrow some.*) | *"Which key do you want?" "The one that's lying on the table."* | *There are only hard chocolates left; we've eaten all the soft ones.* | *This one's a bit small — have you got a slightly bigger one?* | *The officer is the one who gives the orders.* | *The problem is one that has caused us a lot of trouble.* — see **USAGE 1** **2** (*no pl.*) *fml* or *pomp* any person; *YOU*: *One should do one's duty* (*AmE*) *his duty*. | *It makes one wonder if the government know what they are doing.* | *If necessary, one can always consult a dictionary.* — see **USAGE 3** **3** **one who/that/to, etc.** the sort of person who/that/to, etc.: *I'm not usually one to complain, but ...* **4** **the/one's little/young ones** *pomp* or *humor* the/one's children: *My little ones are grown up, with young ones of their own.* **5** **the one about** *infml* the joke about: *Have you heard the one about the travelling salesman and the farmer's daughter?*

▷ **USAGE 1** In formal writing avoid the use of **ones** when two adjectives are used for comparison: *He buys German rather than British cars* (*fml*) and *He buys German cars rather than British ones* (*infml*). **2** In American English and formal British English **ones** is not used after *these* or *those*: *Shall we adopt these methods or those?* **3** In British English **one** meaning "any person" is usually followed by **one's** and **oneself**: *One should wash oneself/wash one's hair regularly.* In American English it is also correct to say: *One should wash himself/wash his hair regularly.* **4** American speakers are more used to using and hearing **you** in sense **2**, meaning "any person", and **one** therefore sounds formal and British. Thus: (*AmE* and *infml*) *You can't always get what you want.* | (*BrE* and *fml*) *One can't always get what one wants.* ◁

one an-oth-er /, ɒn.ə.ðər/ *pron* each other: *They hit one another.* | *They often stay at one another's houses.*

one-armed ban-dit /, ɒn.ə.ɹm.dɪt/ also **fruit machine** *BrE* || **slot machine** *AmE* — *n* a machine with one long handle, into which people put money to try to win more money

one-day crick-et /, ɒn.ə.ɹd.ɪk.ɪt/ *n* [U] a game of **CRICKET** with a limited number of **OVERS** which must be completed within one day. Each team receives the same number of

balls and the team that gets the most runs is the winner.

one-horse /' ɒn.ə. / *adj* [A] **1** pulled by only one horse **2** *humor* small and uninteresting: *a one-horse town*

O'Neill /əʊ'nɪl/, **Eu-gene** /'juːdʒiːn/ (1888–1953) American writer of plays who won the **NOBEL PRIZE** for literature in 1936, known esp. for *Long Day's Journey into Night*

one-lin-er /, ɒn.ə. / *n* very short joke or humorous remark: *new play full of snappy one-liners*

one-man /' ɒn.mən/ *adj* [A] operated, worked, or run by one person: *a one-man show* (with only one person performing) | *the buses are one-man operated* (the driver also takes the passengers' money and gives out tickets)

one-man band /, ɒn.mən.bænd/ *n* **1** a street musician who carries several different instruments and plays them all at once, with the hands, mouth, knees, feet, etc. **2** *infml* an activity which someone does without accepting help from other people: *This firm is really a one-man band.*

one-night stand /, ɒn.ə. / *n* **1** a performance of music or a play that is given only once in each of a number of places: *The rock group played a series of one-night stands in the North.* **2** *infml* (a person involved in) a (sexual) relationship which lasts only one night or a very short time

one-off /, ɒn.ə. / *adj* *BrE* [A] **1** happening or done only once: *Yours for a one-off payment of £200.* **2** made as a single example — **one-off** *n*: *the car's a one-off; it's worth a fortune* | (fig.) *He's a one-off, a real character.* — see also **ONE-SHOT**

one-pa-rent fam-i-ly /, ɒn.pə.rent.fə.mɪ.li/ *n* a family of at least one dependent child and a mother or father who has no partner. Many councils in Britain make special efforts to find places for one-parent families to live, although some people, who think that the parents should stay together, disapprove of this.

one-piece /' ɒn.piːs/ *adj* [A] made in one piece only; not having separate parts: *a one-piece swimsuit*

o-ner-ous /' ɒnərəs, ' ɒn.ə. / *adj* difficult; **BURDENSOME**: *an onerous task/duty* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

one-self /wʌn'self/ *pron* esp. *BrE fml* **1** (reflexive form of **one**): *to wash oneself* | *One can't enjoy oneself if one/if he (AmE) is too tired.* **2** (strong form of **one**): *To do something oneself is often easier than getting someone else to do it.* **3** *infml* (in) one's usual state of mind or body: *One isn't quite oneself in the early morning.* **4** (**all**) **by oneself** alone; without help: *One can't play tennis by oneself.* **5** **to oneself** for one's own private use; not to be shared: *One would rather have a bedroom to oneself.* — see **ONE** (**USAGE**), **YOURSELF** (**USAGE**)

one-shot /' ɒn.ʃɒt/ *adj* *AmE* (complete after) happening only once; **ONE-OFF**: *He claims it's a one-shot solution to our problem.* | *Is this a one-shot deal or do I have to pay again every year?*

one-sid-ed /, ɒn.sɪd.ɪd/ *adj* **1** seeing only one side (of a question); unfair: *a one-sided attitude* **2** with one side much stronger than the other: *The football match was rather one-sided.* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

one-star /' ɒn.stɑː/ *adj* [A] of the lowest rank in a system which shows quality by a number of stars: *a one-star hotel providing clean, simple accommodation*

one-time /' wʌntaɪm/ *adj* [A] former: *the onetime President*

one-to-one /, ɒn.tu.ə. / *adj, adv* **1** matching one another exactly: *a one-to-one correspondence between the ranks in two different navies* **2** between only two people: *one-to-one teaching* (=with one teacher and one student)

one-track mind /, ɒn.træk.mɪnd/ *n* a mind that thinks of only one thing at a time or that is continually concerned with one particular thing: *All you ever talk about is sex — you've got a one-track mind!*

one-two /, ɒn.tu. / *n* **1** (in boxing) a combination of two quick blows with different hands **2** (in football) a combination of two quick passes between two players

one-up-man-ship /wʌn'ʌpmənʃɪp/ also **one-ups-man-ship** /- 'ʌpsmən-/ *AmE n* [U] the art of getting an advantage over others or showing that one is better than them without actually cheating

one-way /, ɒn.ə. / *adj* **1** moving or allowing movement in only one direction: *one-way traffic* | *a one-way street* **2** esp. *AmE* for **SINGLE**¹ (6)

one-wom-an /' ɒn.wʊ.mən/ *adj* [A] operated, worked, or run by one

woman: *a one-woman show* (=with only one woman performing)

on-go-ing /'ɒn,gəʊɪŋ/ *adj* continuing, or continuing to develop: *an ongoing process* | *ongoing negotiations* — see also **GO ON** (6)

on-ion /'ʌnjən/ *n* **1** [C] a strong-smelling round vegetable made up of one skin within another, used in cooking — see picture at **VEGETABLE** **2** [C;U] this vegetable as food: *fried onions* | *onion soup* — see also **KNOW ONE'S ONIONS** (KNOW¹)

on-ion-skin /'ʌnjənskɪn/ *n, adj* *AmE* of or being very thin, light writing paper, used esp. for **AIRMAIL** letters

on-line /'ɒnlaɪn/ *adj* directly connected to and/or controlled by a computer: *an online printer* | *an online database* (=a store of information on a central computer, to which other computers can be connected in order to use the information) — **online** *adv*

on-look-er /'ɒn,lʊkər/ *n* a person who watches something happening without taking part in it: *After the accident the police asked the onlookers to move back.* — see also **LOOK ON**

on-ly¹ /'əʊnli/ *adj* [A] **1** with no others in the same group or of the same type: *John and I were the only people in the room.* | *the only person in the office who smokes* | *The only problem is that it's rather expensive.* | *an only child* (=one with no brothers or sisters) **2** the best: *She's the only person for this job.* | *This is the only way to convince him.*

only² *adv* **1** nothing more than; with no one or nothing else added or included: *only five minutes more* | *Ladies only!* | *I saw him only yesterday.* (=and no longer ago) | *Don't eat it — it will only make you ill.* (=that will certainly be the result) | *made only from the finest ingredients* | *Their decision will affect not only our class but the whole school.* | *Only a doctor can do that.* **2** if only (expressing a strong wish): *If only he wouldn't eat so noisily.* | *If he would only learn to eat quietly!* **3** only just: esp. *BrE* a moment before: *They've/They had only just (now) arrived.* **b** almost not: *I've only just enough money.* **4** only too very; completely: *It's only too true.*

▷ **USAGE** **1** In writing, put **only** in front of the part of the sentence which it is about: *Only John saw the lion.* (=no one else saw it) | *John only saw the lion.* (=he didn't shoot it) | *John saw only the lion* (=he didn't see the tiger). In speech **only** is not usually put after the verb. The way the sentence is said makes it clear what is meant. **2** In formal language **only** may come at the beginning of a sentence. Notice the word order: *Only in Paris can you buy shoes like that.* ◀

only³ *conj* *infml* except that; but: *She wants to go, only she hasn't got enough money.*

Only Fools and Horses /ɒˌlɪˌfəʊlz/ a popular British television programme about the humorous problems of two brothers Derek, (also **DEL BOY**) and Rodney Trotter, who live in a **WORKING-CLASS** area of London and who try to make money without getting jobs or paying tax

o.n.o. *written abbrev for:* (*BrE*) or near offer: *"Man's bicycle for sale, hardly used: £35 o.n.o."* (advertisement)

O-no /'əʊnəʊ/, **Yo-ko** /'jəʊkəʊ/ (1933–) a Japanese artist, now working in America, who was the second wife of John Lennon. She made several records with Lennon and as part of the group, the Plastic Ono Band, including the song *Give Peace A Chance*.

on-o-mat-o-poe-ia /ɒnəmətə'piə/ *n* [U] the formation of words that are like natural sounds (as when the word **CUCKOO** is used to name the bird that makes that sound) — **ic** *adj*

on-rush /'ɒnrʌʃ/ *n* [(of) *usu. sing*] a strong movement forward: *There was a sudden onrush of demonstrators, and the police withdrew.* — **ing** *adj* [A]: *the onrushing tide*

on-screen /ɒˌskriːn/ *adj, adv* so as to be actually seen on the **SCREEN** of a computer: *The text is edited on-screen.*

on-set /'ɒnsɛt/ *n* [(the) *S* (of)] the first attack or beginning (of something bad): *the onset of a fever*

on-shore /ɒn'ʃɔː/ *adj, adv* **1** on(to) or near the shore, not in the water: *onshore oil production* **2** (coming or moving) towards the shore: *The wind was blowing onshore.* — compare **OFFSHORE**

on-side /ɒn'saɪd/ *adj, adv* (in certain sports) not **OFFSIDE** (1)

on side /ɒnˈsaɪd/ *n* [(the) *S*] the **ON**³

on-slaught /'ɒnslɔːt/ *n* [(on)] a fierce attack: *Our army tried to withstand the enemy onslaught.* | *The politician made a violent onslaught* (=attacking speech) *on the unions.*

on-stream /'ɒnstriːm/ *adj, adv* [F] (of an industrial process, a piece of equipment, etc.) in operation or ready to go into operation

On-ta-ri-o /ɒn'teəriəʊ/ *n* a **PROVINCE** in the east of central Canada, containing the country's largest city, Toronto, and over a third of its population

Ontario, Lake the smallest of the five Great Lakes, between the US and Canada — see colour map on pages 1374-5

on the job /ɒnˈdʒɒ/ *adj, adv* while working: *on-the-job training* | *He was fired for sleeping on the job* (=while he should have been working)

On the Or-i-gin of Spe-cies /ɒnˈθiːz/ the title of a book by Charles Darwin in which he explained his ideas about **EVOLUTION** (1)

on-the-spot /ɒnˈθiːspɒt/ *adj* see **SPOT**¹ (12)

on-to /ɒntə/ *prep* **1** to a position or point on: *He jumped onto the train.* **2** be onto a good thing *infml* to have found a good, easy or profitable situation **3** be onto someone *infml* a to have found out about someone's illegal activities: *The police are onto us!* **b** esp. *BrE* to get in touch with someone: *I've been onto the local authorities about the drains.*

on-tol-o-gy /ɒn'tɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] the branch of **PHILOSOPHY** concerned with the nature of existence — **gical** /ɒntə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ *adj* — **gically** /kli/ *adv*

o-nus /'əʊnəs/ *n* [(the) *S*] *fml* the duty or responsibility of doing something: *The onus is on you to complete this report.*

on-ward /ɒnwəd/ *adj* [A] forward in space or time: *the onward march of events* — **onwards**, *usu. on-ward* *AmE* — *adv*: *from breakfast onwards* | *From now onward we'll do things my way.*

on-yx /'ɒnɪks/ *n* [U] a precious stone with lines of various colours

oo-dles /'uːdlz/ *n* [P (of)] *old-fash infml* lots: *oodles of cream*

oof /uːf/ *interj* often *humor* (a word like the sound that people make when hit in the stomach)

ooh la la, ooh là là /uːlɑː'lɑː/ words said when one hears about someone or something surprising or beautiful. It is thought to sound like a French expression.

oomph /ʊmf/ *n* [U] *sl* the power of forceful activity; **ENERGY**: *It's not a bad song, but it needs more oomph.*

oops /ʊps/ *also whoops* — *interj infml* (said when someone has fallen, dropped something, or made a mistake): *Oops! I nearly dropped my cup of tea!*

oops-a-dai-sy /ɒpsə'daɪsi/ *also ups-a-daisy* — *interj infml or humor* (used to encourage someone who falls down or when helping someone to sit up, stand up, or climb): *Are you ready Grandma? Come on then — oops-a-daisy!*

ooze¹ /uːz/ *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] (of liquid, esp. a thick liquid) to pass or flow slowly: *Blood was oozing out of the wound on his leg.* | (fig.) *Their courage oozed away.* **2** [T] to allow (liquid) to pass slowly out: *The meat oozed blood.* | (fig.) *He simply oozes charm.*

ooze² *n* [U] mud or thick liquid, as at the bottom of a river — **oozy** *adj*

op¹ /ɒp/ *n* *BrE infml* for **OPERATION** (3)

op² [A] *written abbrev for:* (*usu. cap.*) **OPUS**

o-pac-i-ty /əʊ'pæsɪti/ *n* [U] the quality of being opaque

o-pal /'əʊpəl/ *n* [C;U] (a) precious stone which looks like milky water with colours in it

o-pa-les-cent /əʊpə'lesənt/ *adj* like an opal; having softly-shining quickly-changing colours — **cence** *n* [U]

o-paque /əʊ'peɪk/ *adj* **1** not able to be seen through: *opaque glass* **2** hard to understand — compare **TRANSPARENT** — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U] — see also **OPACITY**

op art /ɒˌɑːt/ *also optical art* — *n* [U] a form of modern art

using patterns that play tricks on your eyes —compare POP ART

op. cit. /,ɒp 'sɪt||,ɑ:p-/ *abbrev opere citato* (Lat.), in the work (usu. a book) mentioned before

ope /əʊp/ *v* [I;T] *poet* to open

OPEC /'əʊpek/ Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries; an organization which includes representatives of most of the countries that produce oil. They plan together how much to produce and at what price to sell it: *OPEC has/have decided to raise the price of oil.*

op-ed page /,ɒp 'iːd/ *n* AmE the page opposite the EDITORIAL page in many American newspapers, which usu. contains interesting feature articles on current subjects

O-pel /'əʊpəl/ *tdmk* a German company producing cars, part of the American company General Motors

o-pen¹ /'əʊpən/ *adj* **1** not shut: *She pushed/held/propped the door open.* | *The window was wide open.* (=completely open) | *An open book lay on the table.* | *I was so tired I could hardly keep my eyes open.* | *Her mouth fell open in astonishment.* | *Is the road open?* (=not blocked) | *We must try to keep all lines of communication open.* **2** [A] not surrounded by walls, etc.; not enclosed: *the open country* | *open fields* | *open space* | *the open sea* (=the sea far from land) | *It felt good to be out in the open air* (=to be outside) *at last.* **3** without a roof: *an open boat* **4** not fastened or folded: *His shirt was open at the neck.* | *The flowers are open.* **5** not completely decided or answered: *an open question* | *Let's leave it open.* (=let's not decide yet) | *I like to keep my options open.* | *Try and keep an open mind on the subject until you have heard all the facts.* **6** [F] **a** ready to provide a service to customers: *The bank isn't open yet.* **b** officially ready to start being used: *I declare the new bridge open.* **7** [F] (esp. of a job) not filled: *Is the teaching vacancy still open?* **8 a** (of a feeling, system, etc.) not hidden or limited: *open hostility/rivalry* | *I didn't have to bribe anyone — it was all open and above board.* (=completely honest) | *The house should fetch £40,000 on the open market.* **b** (of people) very willing to talk honestly: *Let's be open with each other.* | *an extremely frank and open person* **9** [(to)] that anyone can enter: *an open competition* | *These gardens are open to the public.* **10** BrE (of a cheque) payable in actual money to the person whose name is written on it; not CROSSED —compare CROSS² **11** *tech* (in PHONETICS, of a vowel) pronounced with the tongue low in the mouth —opposite **close** **12** [F+to] **a** not safe from: *This book is open to criticism.* | *His truthfulness is open to question.* | *That statement is open to being misinterpreted.* **b** willing to receive: *I'm always open to suggestions.* **c** possible for: *It's the only course of action open to you.* **13** **with open arms** in a very friendly way: *They welcomed us with open arms.* —see also OPENLY, **lay someone/oneself open to** (LAY²)

open² *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) become open: *This door opens inwards.* | *Open your mouth.* | (fig.) *The decision opened the door to a flood of appeals for help from other organizations.* **2** [I;T (UP, OUT)] to (cause to) spread or unfold: *to open a book/an umbrella* | (fig.) *A split has opened up in the committee.* | (fig.) *A new life was opening up before her.* **3** [I;T] to (cause to) start: *He opened the conference with a speech of welcome.* | *to open an investigation/a debate* **4** [I;T] to (cause to) begin business: *The shop opens at nine o'clock.* | *to open Parliament/a new hospital* **5** [T] to make (a passage) usable by removing the things that are blocking it: *They cleared away the rocks to open the tunnel.* **6** [I] (in cricket) to be one of the two batsmen (BATSMAN) who take the first turn at batting (BAT) for one's team: *Gooch and Stewart opened for England.* **7** **open fire (at/on)** to start shooting (at) **8** **open one's mouth** to start talking: *I knew she was French the moment she opened her mouth.* **9** **open someone's eyes (to)** to make someone know or understand: *The way he deceived me really opened my eyes to his true character.*

▷ **USAGE** You **open** or **shut** (close sometimes *fm*) doors, windows, or boxes. You **undo** or **do up** a shirt, etc. You **turn** water or gas TAPS **on** or **off**. You **turn** or **switch** electrical things **on** or **off**.◁

open into/onto sthg. *phr v* [T] to provide a means of entering or reaching: *The bedroom has French windows opening onto the garden.*

open out *phr v* [I] to speak more freely; **OPEN UP**

open up *phr v* **1** [T (to)] (**open** sthg. ↔ **up**) to make possible the development of: *They opened the country up*

(to trade). **2** [I often imperative] *infrm* to open a door: *Open up or we'll break the door down!* **3** [I] to speak more freely: *When she felt she could trust me, she began to open up.*

open³ *n* [the+S] **1** the outdoors: *life in the open* **2 a** (sporting) competition that anyone can enter **3** **in(to) the open** (of opinions, secrets, etc.) **in(to) the consciousness** of the people around one

Open [the] one of the Open GOLF championship games, e.g. the British Open

open-air /,ɒp 'eɪ-/ *adj* of or in the outdoors: *an open-air concert/swimming pool* —opposite **indoor**

open-and-shut /,ɒp 'əndʃʊt/ *adj* easy to prove; without mystery: *an open-and-shut case of murder*

open bar /,ɒp 'bɑː-/ *n* AmE a bar where drinks are served free: *They had an open bar at the mayor's reception.*

o-pen-cast /'əʊpənka:st||-kæst/ *adj* where minerals, esp. coal, are dug from an open hole in the ground and not from a deep passage: *opencast mines/mining* —compare STRIP MINING

Open Col-lege /,ɒp 'kɒlɪdʒ/ [the] a British organization which teaches adults in their own homes by means of radio and television programmes and CORRESPONDENCE COURSES (courses of study in which work is sent between teachers and students by post). It teaches courses on business and the skills needed to work in many jobs and industries —compare OPEN UNIVERSITY

open day /'ɒp 'deɪ/ also **open house** AmE— *n* a day on which a college, theatre, organization, etc. opens its doors to the public to allow them to see what work is done in places to which they are not usually admitted

open-ended /,ɒp 'endɪd/ *adj* without any clear end, aim, or time limit set in advance: *an open-ended discussion* | *an open-ended housing policy* (=which may change according to needs)

o-pen-er /'əʊpənə/ *n* **1** (usu. in comb.) a person or thing that opens something: *a bottle opener* **2** an opening (OPEN (6)) BATSMAN in cricket

open-eyed /,ɒp 'eɪd/ *adj, adv* with one's eyes wide open, esp. as an expression of surprise: *to stare open-eyed in disbelief*

open gov-ern-ment /,ɒp 'gʌvənmənt/ *n* [U] a system of government in which there is little secrecy and where information is freely available

open-handed /,ɒp 'hændɪd/ *adj* generous: *an open-handed offer of help* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

o-pen-heart-ed /,əʊpən'hɑ:tɪd||-aɪr-/ *adj* generous; freely giving or given — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

open-heart sur-g-e-ry /,ɒp 'hɑ:tɪdʒəri/ *n* [U] a medical operation in which the heart is caused to stop pumping blood for a time and is cut open to be examined and treated

open house /,ɒp 'haʊs/ *n* [U] **1** a state of always welcoming visitors at any time: *It's always open house round at the Collinses.* | *We keep open house at Christmas for the children's friends.* **2** [C] AmE for OPEN DAY

o-pen-ing¹ /'əʊpənɪŋ/ *n* **1** the act of becoming or making open, esp. officially: *the opening of a new university* | *shop opening hours* **2** [(in)] a hole or clear space; GAP: *an opening in the fence/in the clouds* **3** [(for)] a favourable set of conditions (for); OPPORTUNITY: *good openings for business* **4** [(at, in)] an unfilled job position; VACANCY: *There are no openings for secretaries at the bank at present.*

opening² *adj* [A] first; beginning: *her opening words* | *the opening night of a new play* || *the opening lineup* (=starting players) *for today's game*

opening hours /'ɒp 'ɪŋz/ *n* [P] the time during which a building, esp. a PUB or restaurant, is open to the public: *What are your opening hours?* — *10.30 a.m. to 11 p.m.*

opening time /'ɒp 'ɪm/ *n* [C;U] the time at which a business opens, esp. the time at which a bar or PUB starts serving drinks

opening-up /,ɒp 'ɪŋ ʌp/ *n* [U] **1** the action of making possible the development of a place: *New roads and railways paved the way for the opening-up of the interior of Australia.* **2** the situation of becoming more free or less limited: *We hope to see an opening-up of relations between Albania and the EC.*

open let-ter /,ɒp 'letə/ *n* a letter addressed to a particular person but meant for the general public to see, and often

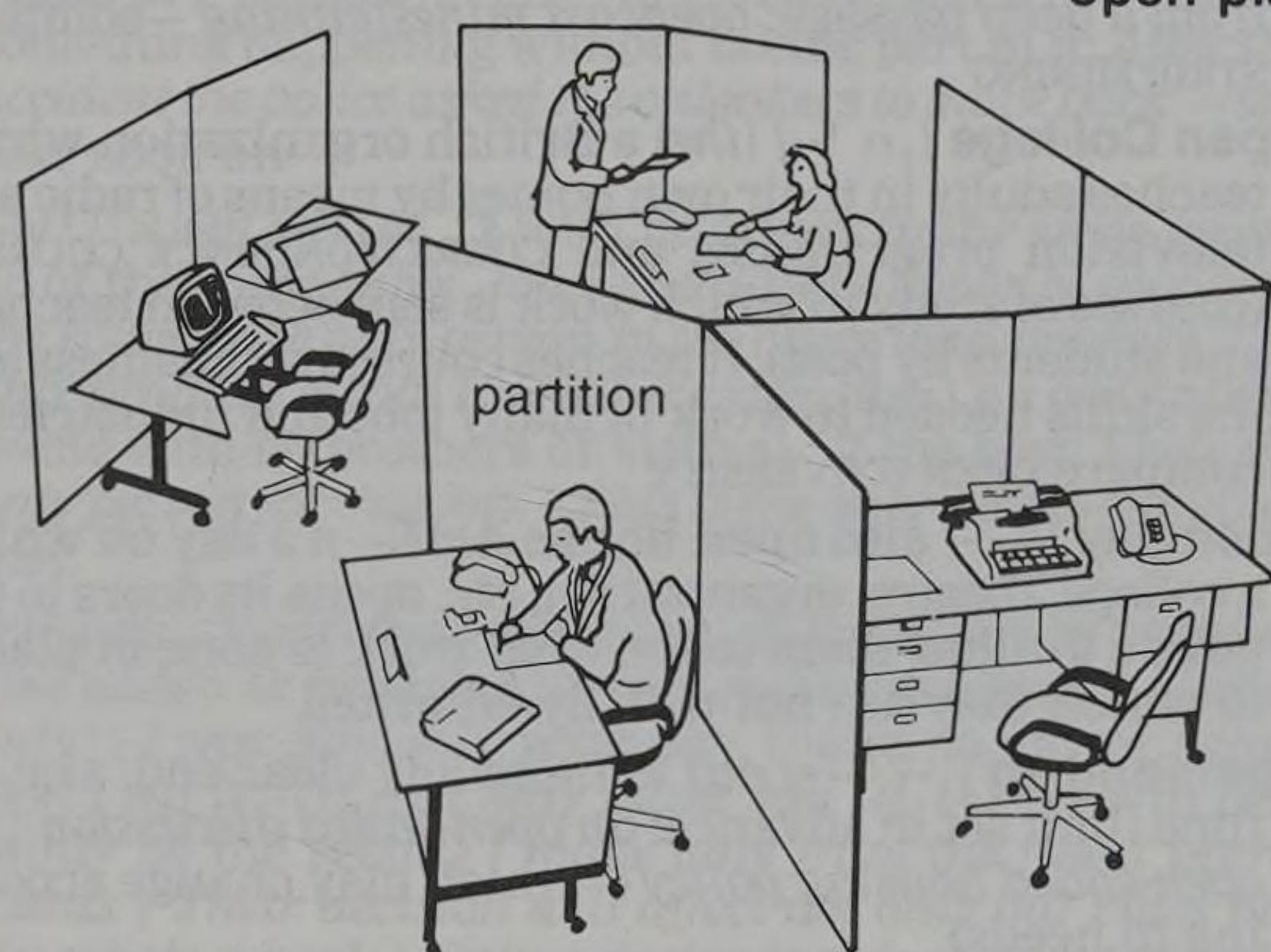
printed in a newspaper. People write open letters when they want others to know about a situation that they think is important, or they want to answer publicly a charge that has been made against them. Open letters are usu. written by and to well-known people.

open-ly /'əʊpənli/ *adv* not secretly: *They talked openly about their plans.* | *He openly admits that he misled the public.* | *a speech openly attacking the government* — **ness** *n* [U]

open mar-ket /,.. 'ɔː/ *n* [the] **on the open market** available for anyone to buy: *We'll have to put it on the open market.*

open-mind-ed /,.. 'ɔː/ *adj* willing to consider new arguments, ideas, opinions, etc.: *open-minded parents* | *I'm quite open-minded about this subject.* — compare **NARROW-MINDED** — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

open-mouthed /,.. 'ɔː/ *adj, adv* with one's mouth wide open, esp. in surprise or shock



an open-plan office

open-plan /,.. 'ɔː/ *adj* (of a large room) not divided into a lot of little rooms: *modern open-plan offices*

open pri-ma-ry /,.. 'ɔː/ also **crossover primary**— *n* an election in the US, held to determine who will represent each party in the final election, in which voters may vote for a **CANDIDATE** (a person running for political office) from either party: *Bush supporters fear that Democrats voting in the State's open primary will vote for the opposing Republican candidates in an effort to weaken Bush's position.* — compare **CLOSED PRIMARY**

open pris-on /,.. 'ɔː/ *n* a prison which does not restrict prisoners as much as ordinary prisons, and which takes only those who are less violent and less likely to try to escape

open sand-wich /,.. 'ɔː/ *n* a single piece of bread with various foods on top of it

open sea-son /,.. 'ɔː/ *n* [(for, on)] the period of each year when certain animals or fish may by law be killed for sport: *the open season for fishing* — opposite **close season**

open se-cret /,.. 'ɔː/ *n* something supposed to be a secret but in fact known to everyone

open ses-a-me /,.. 'ɔː/ *n* [(to)] often *humor* a completely certain way to a desired end that would otherwise be beyond one's reach (from the magic words used for opening a hidden door in the *Arabian Nights* stories): *A university degree is no longer the open sesame to a good job.*

open shop /,.. 'ɔː/ *n* a place of work where it is not necessary to belong to a **TRADE UNION** — opposite **closed shop**

open so-ci-e-ty /,.. 'ɔː/ *n* a **SOCIETY** (2) in which people have considerable freedom in political and religious matters: *In an open society it ought to be possible for citizens to criticize the government without being imprisoned.*

Open Soft-ware Foun-da-tion /,.. 'ɔː/ (abbrev. **OSF**) [the] a group of large computer makers and others who are trying to set international standards for the **UNIX** operating system and **PROGRAMS** that run under it

open sys-tem /,.. 'ɔː/ *n* *tech* a computer system made according to set standards and which can be connected with similar systems made by other companies

Open U-ni-ver-si-ty /,.. 'ɔː/ (abbrev. **OU**) [the] a British university based in Milton Keynes, central S England, which teaches adult students in their own homes by

means of television and radio programmes, **CORRESPONDENCE COURSES** (=courses of study in which work is sent between teachers and students by post), and summer courses, where the students spend a short time together studying away from home. Students can be of any age and do not have to have passed examinations before they start their course. Both science and arts subjects are taught — compare **OPEN COLLEGE**

open ver-dict /,.. 'ɔː/ *n* (in a British **CORONER's** court) a decision that records a death, but not how it was caused, esp. because this is not known: *The jury returned an open verdict.*

open-work /'əʊpən,wɜːk/—wɜːrk/ *n* [U] a pattern with spaces in between thread, metal, etc.: *openwork stockings*

op-e-ra /'ɒpərə/—'ɑː/ *n* **1** [C] a musical play in which many or all of the words are sung: *Mozart's operas* **2** [U] such musical plays as a form of art, a business, etc.: *I'm fond of opera.* | *an opera house* — compare **OPERETTA**; see also **COMIC OPERA**, **GRAND OPERA**, **HORSE OPERA**, **SOAP OPERA** — **~tic** /'ɒpə'rætɪk/—'ɑː/ *adj*: *an operatic voice* — **~tically** /kli/ *adv*

op-e-ra-ble /'ɒpərəbəl/—'ɑː/ *adj* *med* (of a disease or medical condition) able to be treated by means of an operation — opposite **inoperable** — **~bly** *adv*

opera glass-es /'ɒpə'glæs/—'ɑː/ *n* [P] small **BINOCULARS** to be used in a theatre — see **PAIR (USAGE)**

opera house /'ɒpə'haʊs/—'ɑː/ *n* a theatre in which **OPERAS** are performed

op-e-rate /'ɒpəreɪt/—'ɑː/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) work or be in action; (cause to) **FUNCTION**: *Do you know how to operate the heating system?* | *The machine is not operating at maximum efficiency.* | *controls on the way the committee operates in future* | *one-man operated trains* **2** [I+adv/prep] to carry on trade or business: *Our company operates in several countries/out of Rome.* | *operating losses/costs* | *a gang of thieves operating in the city* **3** [I+adv/prep] to produce effects: *The new law operates against us/doesn't operate in our favour.* **4** [I (on, for)] to cut the body in order to set right or remove a diseased part, usu. in an operating theatre in a hospital: *I'm afraid we'll have to operate.* | *to operate on a patient for appendicitis*

operating sys-tem /'ɒpə'reɪtɪŋ'sɪstəm/—'ɑː/ *n* a set of **PROGRAMS** inside a computer that controls the way it works and helps it to handle other programs

operating thea-tre /'ɒpə'reɪtɪŋ'thiə'tre/—'ɑː/ *n* **BrE** || **operating room** /'ɒpə'reɪtɪŋ'rʊm/—'ɑː/ *n* **AmE**— *n* a room in a hospital where **OPERATIONS** (3) are done

op-e-ra-tion /'ɒpə'reɪʃən/—'ɑː/ *n* **1** [U] the condition or process of working: *The operation of a new machine can be hard to learn.* | *When does the new law come into operation?* **2** [C] a thing (to be) done; an activity: *The company's overseas operations include banking and insurance.* | *Getting the glue off the rug was a difficult/major operation.* | *to finance a mining/hotels operation* | *to organize a search/famine relief operation* **3** [C (on, for)] also **op** **BrE** *infml*— the cutting of the body in order to set right or remove a diseased part: *The surgeon is performing a delicate operation/a hip operation.* | *She's going into hospital to have a minor operation on her knee.* **4** [C] a planned, esp. military, movement: *the army's operations in Northern Ireland* | *It's code-named Operation Sunshine.* | *to mount/coordinate a major security operation* **5** [C] *tech* **a** a process used to get one **MATHEMATICAL** expression or figure from others **b** a single step performed by a computer

op-e-ra-tion-al /'ɒpə'reɪʃənəl/—'ɑː/ *adj* **1** [F] ready to be used: *The new machines are not yet fully operational.* **2** [A] of or about operations: *operational costs* — compare **OPERATIVE** — **~ly** *adv*

operational re-search /'ɒpə'reɪʃənəl'reɪʃən/—'ɑː/ also **operations research** /'ɒpə'reɪʃənəl'reɪʃən/—'ɑː/ *n* [U] *tech* the study of how best to build and use machines or plan organizations

Operation Des-ert Shield /'ɒpə'reɪʃən'shɪld/—'ɑː/ the military operation carried out by the **ALLIES** to move men and equipment into the Middle East and protect Saudi Arabia and Israel after Iraq had moved into Kuwait in 1990

Operation Des-ert Storm /'ɒpə'reɪʃən'stɔːm/—'ɑː/ also **Desert Storm** the military operation carried out by the **ALLIES** to take back control of Kuwait from Iraq during the **GULF WAR** of 1990–91

Operation O-ver-lord /,..... '.../ the secret name given to the Allied INVASION of NW Europe, on D Day 1944

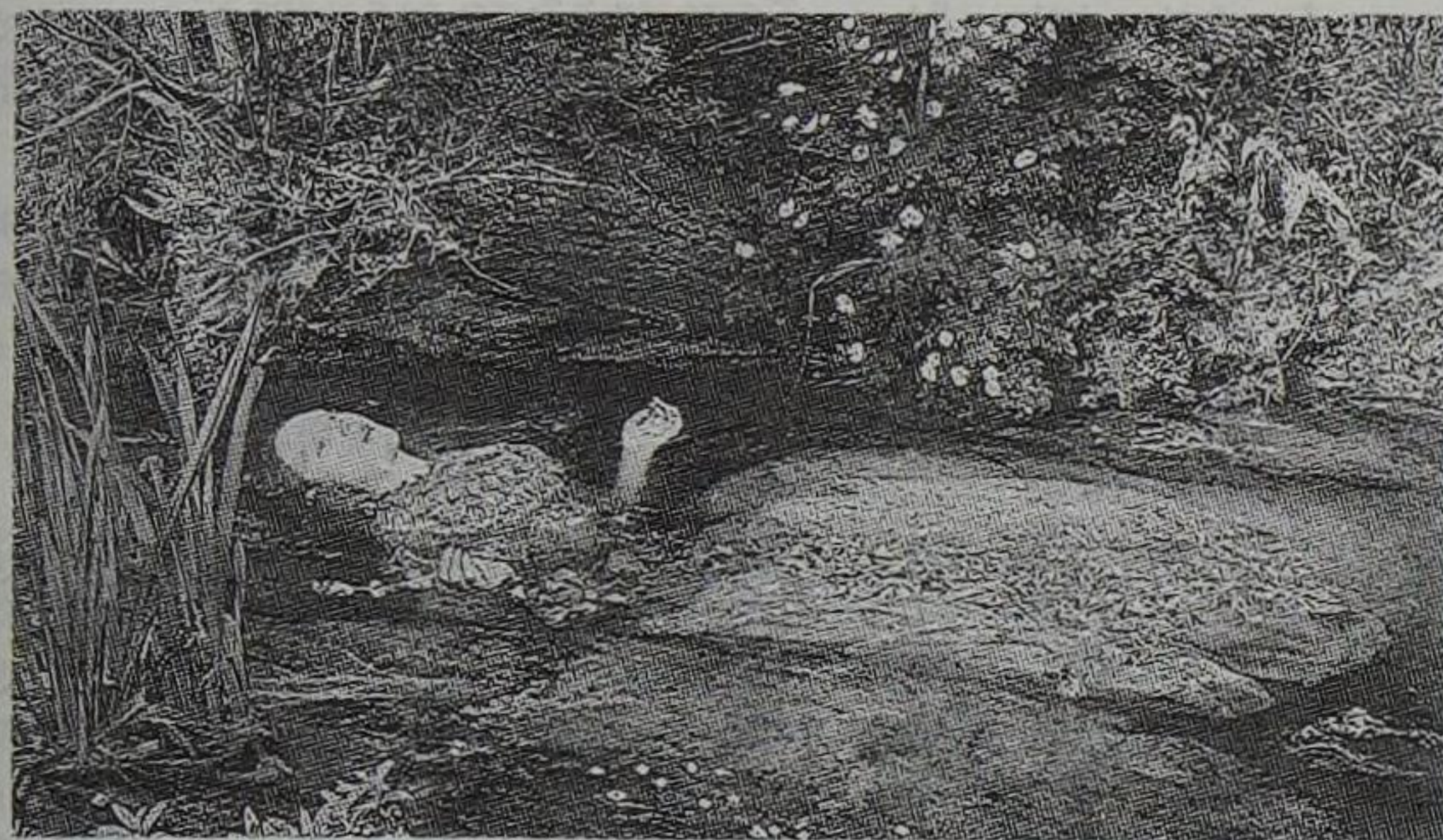
op-e-ra-tive¹ /'ɒpəreɪtɪv/ || 'ɑ:pərə-, 'ɑ:pəreɪ-/ *adj* 1 [F] (of plans, laws, etc.) in operation; producing effects – opposite **inoperative**; compare OPERATIONAL 2 [A] most suitable: “We should push him for a decision.” “Yes, “push” is the **operative** word!”

operative² *n* often *euph* a worker

op-e-ra-tor /'ɒpəreɪtə/ || 'ɑ:-/ *n* 1 a person who works a machine, apparatus, etc. 2 a person who works a telephone SWITCHBOARD: *Operator! I've been cut off.* –see TELEPHONE (USAGE) 3 *infml*, often *derog* a person who is (rather too) clever at dealing with difficulties: *a clever/smooth operator*

op-e-ret-ta /,ɒpə'retə/ || 'ɑ:-/ *n* a short cheerful musical play that includes dancing and in which many of the words are spoken –compare OPERA

Ophelia by Sir John Everett Millais



O-phe-li-a /ə'fɪliə/ || əʊ-/ a female character in Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*. She loves Hamlet and dies by killing herself after he stops courting her. –see also HAMLET

oph-thal-mi-a /ɒf'θælmɪə/ || 'ɑ:f-/ *n* [U] *med* an illness of the eyes causing redness and swelling

oph-thal-mic /ɒf'θælmɪk/ || 'ɑ:f-/ *adj med* of or concerning the eyes: *an ophthalmic surgeon*

oph-thal-mol-o-gy /,ɒfθæl'mɒlədʒi/ || 'ɑ:fθæl'mɑ:-/ *n* [U] *med* the study of the eyes and their diseases –**gist** *n* –see OPTICIAN (USAGE)

o-pi-ate /'əʊpɪət, -eɪt/ *n* a sleep-producing drug containing OPIUM

o-pine /əʊ'paɪn/ *v* [T+*that*; *obj*] *pomp* to express an opinion: *He opined that it was too dangerous.*

o-pin-ion /ə'pɪnjən/ *n* 1 [C;U (of, about)] what a person thinks about something, based on personal judgment rather than actual facts: *Her recent behaviour confirms my opinion that she is not happy here.* | *What's your opinion of this wine?* | *to give/express one's opinion* | *In my opinion you're wrong.* | *George is of the opinion that* (=he thinks) *they should close the factory.* | *I can't stomach my son's political opinions.* | *to form strong opinions* | *We had a slight difference of opinion* (=disagreement) *about which car to buy.* | *It's my considered opinion that he is a liar and a cheat.* (=I say this after careful thought about it) | *Is French food better than English food? It's all a matter of opinion.* (=not something that can be clearly proved or decided) 2 [U] what people in general think about something: **Public opinion** *is against him.* 3 [C] professional judgment or advice: *You should get a second opinion from another doctor.* 4 **have a good or high/bad or low opinion of** to think well/badly of: *They have a very high opinion of his work.*

o-pin-ion-at-ed /ə'pɪnjənɪtɪd/ *adj derog* too sure of the rightness of one's opinions

opinion poll /- 'l... -/ *n* a POLL¹ (1)

o-pi-um /'əʊpɪəm/ *n* [U] 1 an ADDICTIVE drug made from the seeds of the white POPPY that lessens pain and makes one sleep 2 **the opium of the people** *quotation* a phrase used by Karl Marx to describe religion

o-pos-sum /ə'pɒsəm/ || -'pa:-, 'pa:səm/ *n esp. BrE and fml* for POSSUM

Op-pen-hei-mer /'ɒpənhaɪmə/ || 'ɑ:p-/ *J Robert* (1904–67) American scientist who was head of the team which built the first ATOM BOMB in 1945

op-po-nent /ə'pəʊnənt/ *n* 1 a person who takes the oppo-

site side in a game, competition, etc.: *His opponent did not stand a chance.* 2 a person who opposes someone or something: *She is one of the strongest opponents of tax reform.* –see also OPPOSITION; compare PROPONENT

op-por-tune /'ɒpətju:n/ || 'ɑ:pər'tu:n/ *adj* 1 (of times) right for a purpose: *I picked an opportune moment to ask a favour of her.* 2 coming at the right time: *an opportune remark* –opposite **inopportune** –*~ly adv*

op-por-tun-is-m /,ɒpə'tju:nɪzəm/ || 'ɑ:pər'tu:-/ *n* [U] *usu. derog* the tendency to take advantage of every chance for success, sometimes to other people's disadvantage: *blatant opportunism* –**ist** *n*: *a political opportunist*

op-por-tu-ni-ty /,ɒpə'tju:nɪti/ || 'ɑ:pər'tu:-/ *n* [C;U (for, of)] a favourable moment or occasion (for doing something): *You should go and see this film if you get the opportunity.* | *My flight was delayed so it was a good opportunity for doing some shopping.* | *I took the opportunity of visiting Ann while I was in London.* | *I'd like to/May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work on the project.* [+to-v] *You shouldn't miss the opportunity to see the play – it's rarely put on.* –see CHANCE (USAGE)

Opportunity Knocks /,..... '.../ a British television programme popular in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, in which ordinary people were given the chance to perform on television, *usu.* by singing, dancing, telling jokes, etc.

opposable thumb /- '... '.../ *n* a thumb that is set at an angle facing the other fingers, such as on the human hand, which makes it possible to use the hands in many more ways than animals can use their PAWS

op-pose /ə'pəʊz/ *v* [T] to regard (esp. a suggestion or planned course of action) with strong disapproval, and esp. to take action to try to prevent it from happening or succeeding: *The proposed new airport will be vigorously/strongly opposed by the local residents.* [+v-ing] *The President opposes giving military aid to this country.* | *an attempt to reconcile their opposing views on this question*

op-posed /ə'pəʊzd/ *adj* [(to)] opposite; against: *Their opinions are diametrically opposed.* (=completely opposed) | *I am strongly opposed to your suggestion.* | *This is a book about business practice as opposed to theory.* | *Our members are definitely opposed to making concessions on the health and safety question.*

op-po-site¹ /'ɒpəzɪt/ || 'ɑ:-/ *n* [C;the+S (of)] a person or thing that is as different as possible from another: *Black and white are opposites.* | *Black is the opposite of white.* | *She's rather quiet, but her sister is completely/just the opposite.*

opposite² *adj* [(to)] 1 as different as possible from: *He turned and walked in the opposite direction.* | *the opposite sex* | *They are at opposite ends of the political spectrum.* (=their political views are completely different) 2 facing: *He lives opposite (me/to me).* | *on the opposite page* [after *n*] *I live in the houses opposite.*

opposite³ *prep* facing: *the houses opposite the station*

opposite num-ber /,.... '.../ *n BrE* a person in the same job as oneself but in a different organization: *Our Safety Officer will discuss the problem with his opposite number in your firm.* –compare COUNTERPART

op-po-si-tion /,ɒpə'zɪʃən/ || 'ɑ:-/ *n* 1 [U (to)] the act or state of being opposed to or fighting against: *There was a lot of opposition to the new road.* | *His proposals met with fierce opposition.* 2 [U] the people who are fighting or competing against (someone): *Our team will be a good match for the opposition.* 3 [(the) C+sing./pl. v] (often *cap.*) the political parties opposed to the government, esp. the most important of these parties, in Britain the LABOUR OR CONSERVATIVE party: *The Opposition is/are voting against this bill.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain the Opposition, esp. the main opposition party, is very important. The Leader of the Opposition is a Privy Councillor, and members of the Opposition take part in committees set up by parliament to examine various problems. The official title of the Opposition is **Her or His Majesty's Loyal Opposition**, showing that the Opposition is considered loyal to the Queen or King and to the country, although it does not agree with the government's ideas. ◀

op-press /ə'pres/ *v* [T] 1 to rule in a hard and cruel way: *The oppressed peasants rose up against the dictator.* 2 [*usu. pass.*] *esp. lit* to cause to feel ill or sad: *oppressed by/with worry*

op-pres-sion /ə'presən/ *n* [U] the condition of oppressing or being oppressed

op-pres-sive /ə'presiv/ *adj* **1** cruel; unjust: *oppressive taxation* **2** causing feelings of illness or sadness **3** with no wind and very hot, as if there is about to be a storm: *We've had really oppressive weather today.* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

op-pres-sor /ə'presə/ *n* a person or group that oppresses

op-pro-bri-ous /ə'prəubriəs/ *adj fml* (esp. of words) showing great disrespect — **~ly** *adv*

op-pro-bri-um /ə'prəubriəm/ *n* [U] *fml* public shame or hatred

O-pren /'əuprən/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a drug for ARTHRITIS which was removed from sale in 1982 after it was claimed that people taking the drug had suffered severe and unpleasant side effects

opt /ɒpt/ *v* [I+for/to-v] to make a choice (esp. of one thing or course of action instead of another): *You can opt to receive your pension in small regular amounts or in a single lump sum.* | *The voters opted for higher taxes rather than any reduction in services.*

opt out *phr v* **1** [I (of)] to choose not to do something or take part in something: *You promised to help us, so please don't opt out (of it) now!* | *Employees may choose to opt out of the company pension scheme and to make their own arrangements.* **2** *BrE* (of a hospital or school) to choose to leave local authority control and to receive money to run the organization direct from the government

op-tic /'ɒptɪk/ *adj* of or belonging to the eyes: *the optic nerve* — see picture at EYE

op-ti-cal /'ɒptɪkəl/ *adj* **1** of or about the sense of sight; *VISUAL*: *optical instruments* | *an optical illusion* (=something that deceives the sense of sight) — see picture at ILLUSION **2** of or using light, esp. for the purpose of recording and storing information for use in a computer system: *optical character recognition* | *optical storage* | *an optical disk* — compare MAGNETIC (2) — **~ly** *adv*

optical art /,ɒ... 'ɒ/ *n* [U] OP ART

optical fi-bre /,ɒ... 'ɒ/ *n* a thread-like piece of glass or plastic which can carry light, and is used in many modern technical situations where electricity was formerly used

op-ti-cian /ɒp'tɪʃən/ *n* a person who makes glasses and/or CONTACT LENSES and sells them in a shop (**optician's**): *I've got an appointment at the optician's today.*

▷ USAGE Compare **oculist**, **optician**, **optometrist** and **ophthalmologist**. **Oculist** is an old-fashioned word and not much used. In Britain, people associate eye-tests and glasses with an **optician**; in the US, **optometrist** is more common. Technically, an **optician** is qualified only to make glasses, not to test the eyes, but an **ophthalmologist** holds a regular medical degree and specializes in the eyes. He or she can test the eyes, and also perform SURGERY on them, or PRESCRIBE drugs.◀

op-tics /'ɒptɪks/ *n* [U] the scientific study of light

op-ti-mal /'ɒptɪməl/ *adj* OPTIMUM

op-ti-mis-m /'ɒptɪmɪzəm/ *n* [U] a tendency to give more attention to the good side of a situation or to expect the best possible result — opposite **pessimism**

op-ti-mist /'ɒptɪmɪst/ *n* a person who thinks that whatever happens will be good: *Tom, an eternal optimist/ever the optimist, hadn't bothered to bring his umbrella.* — opposite **pessimist** — **~ic** /,ɒptɪ'mɪstɪk/ *adj*: *The experts are optimistic about our chances of success/optimistic that we will succeed.* — **~ically** *adv*

op-ti-mize also **-mise** *BrE* /'ɒptɪmaɪz/ *v* [T] to make as perfect or effective as possible: *to tune up a racing car engine in order to optimize its performance*

op-ti-mum /'ɒptɪməm/ *n* [U] also **optimal** — *adj* [A] most likely to bring success or advantage; most favourable: *optimum conditions for growing rice*

option /'ɒpʃən/ *n* **1** [(the) U] the freedom to choose: *You will have to pay them; you have no option.* **2** [C] one of a number of courses of action that are possible and may be chosen: *The government has two options: to reduce spending or to increase taxes.* | *I want to keep my options open for the moment.* (=not choose too soon) | *There are various options open to you.* (=possible for you) | *The stu-*

dents regard this subject as a soft option. (=easier than others that could be chosen) **3** [C] something that is offered as well as standard equipment: *The car includes air-conditioning among its options.* **4** [C (on)] the right to buy or sell something in the future: *Jones has taken an option on shares in the company.*

option-al /'ɒpʃənəl/ *adj* which may be freely chosen or not chosen: *optional subjects at school* | *The car radio is an optional extra.* — opposites **compulsory**, **obligatory** — **~ly** *adv*

op-tom-e-trist /ɒp'tɒmətrɪst/ *n* esp. *AmE* a specialist who tests the eyes and PRESCRIBES glasses for people who cannot see properly without them — see OPTICIAN (USAGE)

Op-trex /'ɒptreks/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of liquid made by Optrex Ltd and used for washing the eyes to stop them being sore

op-u-lence /'ɒpjələns/ *n* [U] very great and splendid wealth

op-u-lent /'ɒpjələnt/ *adj* **1** having or showing great wealth: *opulent surroundings* **2** *fml* in good supply; PLENTIFUL: *an opulent beard* — **~ly** *adv*

o-pus /'əʊpəs/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** (often *cap.*) a work of music by a particular musician, numbered according to when it was written: *Beethoven's Opus 106* **2** often *pomp* or *derog* any work of art — see also MAGNUM OPUS

Opus mag-num /,ɒ... 'ɒ/ MAGNUM OPUS

or /ə/; *strong* ɔ:/ *conj* **1** (often with **either**; used before the last of a set of possibilities): *Would you prefer coffee or tea?* | *She's either 21 or 22.* | *I don't care whether I get it or not.* | *Did you or didn't you?* | *She's going to spend the summer in London or Paris or Rome/in London, Paris, or Rome.* — see EITHER³ (USAGE) **2** (after a negative) and not: *He never smokes or drinks.* **3** if not; otherwise: *Wear your coat or (else) you'll be cold.* | *He can't be ill, or he wouldn't have come.* | *Either say you're sorry or get out!* **4** (used when giving a second name for something) that is; that means; it would be better to say: *She was born in Saigon, or Ho Chi Minh City as it is now called.* **5** or **so** about; at least; or more: *a minute or so* | *five dollars or so* **6** or **two** (used after singular nouns) about; at least; or more: *a minute or two* | *a dollar or two* — see also **or else** (ELSE)

▷ USAGE **Or** can be used when you want to limit or correct something you have said: *It's going to snow tomorrow, or that's what the forecast says.* | *He is, or was, a very famous writer.*◀

OR *written abbrev. for:* OREGON

or-a-cle /'ɒrəkəl/ *n* **1** (in ancient Greece) **a** a person through whom a god was thought to speak **b** a place where a god was believed to answer people's questions through such a person **2** *humor* or *derog* a very wise person who can give the best advice: *I suppose before we do anything we'd better consult the oracle.* **3** **work the oracle** *BrE infml* to succeed in doing something difficult — see also DELPHIC ORACLE

Oracle the TELETEXT (=television broadcasting of written information) system operated by the IBA in Britain

o-rac-u-lar /ɒ'rækjʊlə/ *adj* **1** of an oracle **2** (of a statement) solemn and hard to understand

o-ral /'ɔ:rəl/ *adj* **1** spoken, not written: *He passed his French oral (examination).* **2** esp. *med* of, about, or taken in by the mouth: *oral hygiene* — **~ly** *adv*

▷ USAGE Compare **aural** which means "of or received through hearing": *an aural test* (=a test where students listen) | *an oral test* (=a test where students speak).◀

oral con-tra-cep-tive /,ɒ... 'ɒ/ *n fml* or *tech* a combination of drugs (*usu.* OESTROGEN and PROGESTERONE) which can be swallowed to prevent a woman becoming PREGNANT — see also MORNING-AFTER-PILL, PILL (2)

oral sex /,ɒ... 'ɒ/ *n* [U] the practice of touching the sex organs with the lips and tongue in order to give sexual pleasure — see also CUNNILINGUS, FELLATIO

oral sur-geon /'ɒ... 'ɒ/ *n* a DENTIST who can perform operations in the mouth — compare DENTIST

or-ange /'ɒrɪndʒ/ *n* **1** [C] a round reddish-yellow bitter-sweet fruit grown in tropical areas, with a thick skin and divided into parts (SEGMENTS) inside: *to peel an orange* — see picture at FRUIT **2** [U] the colour of an orange — **orange** *adj*: *an orange glow in the sky*

or-ange-ade /ˌɒrɪndʒˈeɪd/ ˌɔː-, ˌɑː-/ *n* [U] a drink containing or tasting of orange juice

orange blos-som /ˈɒrɪndʒˈblɒsəm/ ˌɔː-, ˌɑː-/ *n* [U] the small white flowers of the orange tree

Orange Free State /ˌɒrɪndʒˈfriːsteɪt/ [the] a former British COLONY in southern Africa which is now part of South Africa

Or-ange-man /ˈɒrɪndʒmən/ ˌɔː-, ˌɑː-/ *n* -**men** /mən/ a member of a Northern Ireland society of PROTESTANTS, with branches also in Scotland, named after WILLIAM OF ORANGE; also known as the **Orange Order** or the **Loyal Orange Institution**

Orangemen's Day /ˈɒrɪndʒmənzˈdeɪ/ July 12, celebrated by Protestants in Northern Ireland with the **Orangemen's Day Parade**, which remembers the Protestant success over James II and his Catholic supporters at the Battle of the Boyne

oranges and lem-ons /ˌɒrɪndʒz ˌleɪmz/ a British NURSERY RHYME (an old song for children) based on the names of places, esp. churches, in London:

“Oranges and lemons”

say the bells of St. Clements.

“You owe me five farthings”

say the bells of St. Martins.

“When will you pay me?”

say the bells of Old Bailey.

“When I grow rich”

say the bells of Shoreditch.

“When will that be?”

say the bells of Stepney.

“I do not know”

says the great bell at Bow.

Young children play a game to this song. Two children join hands and hold their arms up to form an arch: they sing the song while the other players go underneath. At the end of the song they say: “Here comes a candle to light you to bed, here comes a chopper to chop off your head. Chip chop, chip chop, the last man's dead”, and as they say the last word they bring their arms down quickly to catch a child going underneath.

o-rang-u-tang /ˌɔːræŋuːˈtæŋ/ ˌɔːræŋtæŋ/ also **o-rang-u-tan** /-tæn/— *n* a large monkey with reddish hair and no tail —see picture at APE

o-ra-tion /əˈreɪʃən, ɔː-/ *n* a formal and solemn public speech: *to deliver an oration*

or-a-tor /ˈɒrətər/ ˌɔː-, ˌɑː-/ *n* a person who speaks in public, esp. strongly and to a large crowd of people

or-a-to-ri-o /ˌɒrətɔːriəʊ/ ˌɔː-, ˌɑː-/ *n* -**ios** a long musical work with singing but without acting, usu. telling a story from the Bible or about a religious subject —compare CANTATA

or-a-tory /ˈɒrətəri/ ˌɔːrətɔːri, ˌɑː-/ *n* [U] **1** the art of making good speeches **2** *sometimes derog* language highly decorated with long or formal words —**rical** /ˌɒrətɪkəl/ ˌɔːrətɔː-, ˌɑːrətɔː-/ *adj* —**rically** /kli/ *adv*

oratory ² *n* (esp. in the Roman Catholic Church) a small room or building for prayer

orb /ɔːb/ ˌɔːrb/ *n* **1** a ball decorated with gold, etc., carried by a king or queen on formal occasions as a sign of power **2** [*usu. pl.*] *poet* an eye

Or-bi-son /ˌɔːbɪsən/ ˌɔːr-, **Roy** /rɔɪ/ (1936–88) a singer and songwriter who is best remembered for his 1964 song *Pretty Woman*

or-bit /ˌɔːbɪt/ ˌɔːr-/ *n* **1** the curved path of something moving round something else, esp. of the Earth going round the sun, or the moon or a spacecraft going round the Earth: *a satellite in orbit round the Earth* **2** an area of power or influence: *countries within the Soviet orbit* —**al** *adj*: *an orbital road* (=round a city)

orbit ² *v* [I;T] to move in an orbit (round): *The satellite orbits the Earth every 48 hours.*

or-chard /ˈɔːtʃəd/ ˌɔːrtʃəd/ *n* a place where certain, esp. non-CITRUS, fruit trees are grown: *an apple orchard* —compare GROVE (2)

or-ches-tra /ˈɔːkɪstreɪ/ ˌɔːr-/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a large group of musicians who play music for combinations of different instruments: *He plays the violin in a symphony orchestra/a string orchestra.* —compare BAND ² (2), ENSEMBLE

or-ches-tral /ˌɔːˈkestrəl/ ˌɔːr-/ *adj* of, by, or written for an orchestra: *orchestral music*

orchestra pit /ˈɒrɪstrəˈpɪt/ *n* the space below and in front of a

theatre stage where musicians sit and play —see picture at THEATRE

or-ches-trate /ˈɔːkɪstreɪt/ ˌɔːr-/ *v* [T] **1** to arrange (music) so that it can be performed by an orchestra **2** *sometimes derog* to plan (something with many parts) for the best effect: *to orchestrate a political campaign* | *Someone is trying to orchestrate our downfall.* —**tration** /ˌɔːkɪˈstreɪʃən/ ˌɔːr-/ *n* [C;U]

or-child /ˈɔːkɪd/ ˌɔːr-/ also **or-chis** /ˈɔːkɪs/ ˌɔːr-/ *n* (a tropical plant with) an often big bright flower divided into three parts of which the middle one is larger and like a lip

or-dain /ɔːˈdeɪn/ ˌɔːr-/ *v* [T] **1** to make (someone) a priest or religious leader: *He was ordained in 1984.* [+*obj+n*] *She was ordained the first woman priest of her church.* —see also ORDINATION **2** [+*that;obj*] (of God, the law, etc.) to order; DECREE

or-deal /ɔːˈdiːl, ˌɔːdiːl/ ˌɔːrˈdiːl, ˌɔːrdiːl/ *n* a difficult or painful experience: *The parents went through a terrible ordeal when their child was kidnapped.*

or-der ¹ /ˈɔːdə/ ˌɔːr-/ *n* **1** [U] the special way in which a group of people, objects, etc., are put on a list or arranged in connection with each other; SEQUENCE: *The words in a dictionary are shown in alphabetical order.* | *The items are listed in order of importance.* | *in chronological order*

2 [U] the state in which things are carefully arranged in their proper place; neatness: *Just give me five minutes to put my desk in order.* | (fig.) *He put his business affairs in order before he died.* —opposite **disorder** **3** [U] fitness for use or operation: *The telephone's out of order.* (=does not work) | *This car is in good working/running order.*

4 [U] the condition in which laws and rules are obeyed: *That young teacher can't keep order in her classroom.* | *The chairman called him to order at the meeting.* (=told him to stop disobeying the rules) | *Order! Order!* (=Stop breaking the rules of the meeting.) | *Your question is out of order.* (=against the rules) —see also POINT OF ORDER, law and order (LAW (9)), in order (ORDER ¹)

5 [C] also **orders pl.**— a command or direction, given by a person who has the right to command: *You must obey my orders.* [+*to-v/that*] *I have orders* (=I have been commanded) *to search your room/that your room must be searched.* | *The general gave the order to advance.* | *I'm here by order of the general.* | *The ship left under orders to sail to the Pacific.* (=having been commanded to do this) | (*informal*) *Take your medicine: it's doctor's orders.*

6 [C (for)] a request (esp. by a customer) to supply goods: *We placed* (=made) *an order for a newspaper to be delivered daily.* | “*Shall I take your orders now?*” asked the waiter. —see also MAIL ORDER, SIDE ORDER, on order, to order (ORDER ¹)

7 [C] the goods supplied in accordance with such a request: *He collected his order from the shop.* **8** [C] a written or printed paper which allows the holder to do something, e.g. to be paid money —see also MONEY ORDER, POSTAL ORDER **9** [C+*sing./pl. v*] (often *cap. as part of a name*) **a** a society of people who lead a holy life according to a particular set of religious rules: *an order of monks/nuns* **b** a (secret) society of people who allow others to join them through an INITIATION ceremony: *a Masonic order/the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks* —see also ORDERS **10** [(the) C (of)] (often *cap. as part of a name*) **a** a group of people who have received any of several special honours given by a king, queen, etc., for service, bravery, etc.: *a member of the Order of the Garter* **b** a piece of metal, silk, etc., worn to show that one belongs to such a group: *wearing his orders*

11 [C] *fml* a kind; sort: *intelligence of the highest order* **12** [C *usu. sing.*] *fml* the way things usually happen at a particular time in history: *the present economic order* **13** [C] also **orders pl.**— a special group or rank in a society: *the military order* | (*now rare or humor*) *the lower orders* (=workers, servants, etc.)

14 [U] the stated kind of clothing worn or equipment carried, or the stated arrangement of soldiers, machines, etc.: *troops in full marching order* | *The aircraft flew in close order.* (=with little space between them) **15** [C] *tech* a division of animals or plants (or languages), below a CLASS ¹ (6) and above a FAMILY (5)

16 [C] *tech* a division of any group of things: *Greek pillars of the Doric and Ionic orders* **17** *in order* *fml* acceptable; properly arranged or according to accepted rules: *It'll be quite in order for you to speak now.* | *Is your passport in order?*

18 *in order that* *fml* so that: *He sold it in order that we might live more comfortably.* **19** *in order to* with the purpose

or intention of; so that one may: *He stood on a chair in order to reach the top shelf.* | *I sent the plans in order for you to study them fully before the meeting.* **20 last orders** *BrE* the phrase used in PUBS to warn people that the pub is about to close and people should order their last drinks **21 of/in the order of** *BrE* || *on the order of* *AmE*— about; about as much or as many as: *Her income is of the order of £17,000 a year.* **22 only obeying orders** a phrase used by many German soldiers charged with WAR CRIMES after the Second World War. They defended their actions by saying that they had no choice because they were “only obeying orders”. **23 on order** asked for from the maker or supplier but not yet supplied: *The textbook you require is temporarily out of stock, but it's on order.* **24 out of order:** a not working properly b not in accordance with the rules of a parliament, court, or similar body c *sl* behaving in a wrong or unacceptable way **25 to order** made to fit a particular person's body or according to the exact needs of a particular person: *We supply handmade shoes to order.* —see also COURT ORDER, MARCHING ORDERS, STANDING ORDER, TALL ORDER, **call to order** (CALL¹)

order² *v* **1** [T] to give an order (to or for); command: *The general ordered an attack.* [+that] *He ordered that the men (should) fire the guns[that the guns (should) be fired].* [+obj+to-v] *The doctor ordered her patient to take a month's rest.* | *If you make any more noise I shall order you (=command you to go) out of the room.* **2** [I;T (for)] to ask for (something) to be brought, made, etc., in return for payment: *“Have you ordered yet, Madam?” asked the waiter.* | *I've ordered new curtains for the bedroom.* | *Don't forget to order a taxi.* | *I've ordered a beer for you.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *I've ordered you a beer.* **3** [T] to arrange; put in order: *Take time to order your thoughts before you write the essay.* | *a well-ordered existence*

▷ **USAGE** People whose position gives them a right to be obeyed can **order** or give **orders**, but **command** is usually used only in a military sense: *The doctor ordered me to rest for a week.* | *The general ordered/commanded his men to advance.* **Direct, instruct, tell** and **ask** are similar to **order** but not as strong.◀

order sbdy. **about/around** *phr v* [T] to annoy (someone) by giving many orders, esp. unpleasantly; **BOSS**² about: *His big brother is always ordering him about.*

order book /'... / *n BrE* (a book in which are written) all the orders which remain to be dealt with by a particular company, etc.: *Order books in the shipping industry remain generally much below normal.*

order-ly¹ /'ɔ:dəli||'ɔ:rdərli/ *adj* **1** well-arranged: *an orderly office* **2** loving good arrangement; of a tidy nature and habits **3** peaceful and well-behaved: *an orderly crowd* —opposite **disorderly** —**liness** *n* [U]

orderly² *n* **1** a person who helps in a hospital, usu. without special professional training **2** a soldier who attends an officer

Order of Merit /'... / (abbrev. **OM**) [*the*] a special honour given to British people who have done something unusually good in military or CIVILIAN life. Only 24 people have the Order of Merit at any one time. —compare **COMPANION OF HONOUR**

Order of the Bath /'... / [*the*] one of the highest degrees of British **KNIGHTHOOD**. There are three classes of the Order, and each is divided into military and **CIVIL** (1) varieties.

Order of the Garter /'... / [*the*] the highest degree of British **KNIGHTHOOD**, together with the Order of the Thistle (from the **GARTER** said to have been lost by the Countess of Salisbury at a royal event, and picked up by King Edward III, whose action saved her embarrassment)

Order of the Thistle /'... / [*the*] the highest degree of British **KNIGHTHOOD**, together with the Order of the Garter. Only 16 people have the Order of the Thistle at any one time, and they are mainly Scottish men of high rank.

order paper /'... / *n* a list of what is to be talked about, esp. in the British parliament

or-ders /'ɔ:dəz||'ɔ:rdəz/ *n* [P] *tech* the state of being a priest or other person permitted to perform Christian services and duties: *He took holy orders.* (=became a priest)

or-di-nal¹ /'ɔ:dɪnəl||'ɔ:r-/ *adj* showing position in a set of numbers

ordinal² also **ordinal num-ber** /'... / *n* one of the numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) that show order rather than quantity —compare **CARDINAL NUMBER**

or-di-nance /'ɔ:dɪnəns||'ɔ:rdənəns/ *n fml* **1** an order given by a ruler or governing body: *an ordinance of the council* **2** *AmE* a law, usu. of a city or town, that forbids or controls some activity: *an ordinance to prevent loitering in the park*

or-di-na-ri-ly /'ɔ:dənərɪli, 'ɔ:dən'eərɪli||'ɔ:rdən'erɪli/ *adv* **1** in an ordinary way: *He was behaving quite ordinarily.* **2** usually: *Ordinarily, she's back by five o'clock.*

or-di-na-ry /'ɔ:dənri||'ɔ:rdənəri/ *adj* **1** not unusual; common: *I've got an ordinary sort of car, nothing special.* | *Visiting old people is part of her ordinary routine.* | *I think this artist's paintings are rather ordinary.* (=not particularly good) **2** in the 'ordinary way if nothing unusual happens **3** out of the ordinary unusual; uncommon: *We'll be there by six, as long as nothing out of the ordinary happens.* —see also **EXTRAORDINARY** —**iness** *n* [U]

ordinary lev-el /'... / *n* [C;U] see **O LEVEL**

ordinary sea-man /'... / *n* a naval rank —see **TABLE 3**

ordinary shares /'... / also **equities**— *n* [P] the largest part of a company's capital. People who own the ordinary shares of a company choose the directors, vote at meetings, and have the right to receive part of the company's profits if these are given out.

or-di-na-tion /'ɔ:dɪ'neɪʃən||'ɔ:r-/ *n* [C;U] the act or ceremony of ordaining (**ORDAIN**) a priest

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Until 1992 there were no Anglican women priests in England, but in 1992, after much discussion, the Church of England decided to allow the ordination of women priests. Many people in the Church of England disagreed with this decision, and are still opposed to the idea of women priests.◀

ord-nance /'ɔ:dnəns||'ɔ:r-/ *n* [U] **1** big guns on wheels; **ARTILLERY** **2** weapons, explosives, and vehicles used in fighting

Ordnance Sur-vey /'... / also **OS**— [*the*] an official organization which makes very detailed and correct maps of Britain and Ireland. The maps are used by people walking in the country, and each map has its own OS number. —compare **US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

or-dure /'ɔ:dʒʊə||'ɔ:rdʒər/ *n* [U] *fml* dirt, esp. waste matter from the bowels

ore /ɔ:r/ *n* [C;U] rock, earth, etc., from which metal can be obtained: *iron/copper ore*

o-re-ad /'ɔ:riəd/ *n* in ancient stories, a female spirit of the mountains —compare **NAIAD**, **DRYAD**

o-reg-a-no /'ɔ:rɪ'gənəu||ə'regənəu/ *n* [U] a plant used in cooking to add a special taste to food

Or-e-gon /'ɔ:rɪgən||'ɔ:-, 'ɑ:-/ *written abbrev* **OR** a state in the NW of the US known for its fruit, fish, and scenery —see colour map on pages 1374-5

Oregon Trail /'... / [*the*] the path that early American settlers followed to reach the Northwest. It crossed the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains before turning towards Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

O-re-o /'ɔ:riəu/ *n tdmk* **1** a very popular American **COOKIE** that is chocolate outside and white **ICING** inside **2** *usu. derog* a black person who thinks like and has the values of a white person

or-gan /'ɔ:gən||'ɔ:r-/ *n* **1** a part of an animal or plant that has a special purpose: *The liver is a vital organ.* (=an organ without which life cannot continue) | *the sexual organs/organs of reproduction* **2** an organization, usu. official, that has a special purpose: *Parliament is an organ of government.* **3** [(of)] a newspaper, radio station, etc., that supplies information to, or represents the views of, a particular group: *This paper is the official organ of the Socialist party.* **4** a musical instrument made of many pipes of different lengths through which air is forced, played rather like a piano and often found in churches —see also **ORGANIST** b a similar instrument without pipes: *an electric organ* —see also **BARREL ORGAN**, **MOUTHORGAN** **5** *euph* (esp. in the phrase **male organ**) a **PENIS**

or-gan-die || also **-dy** *AmE* /'ɔ:gəndi/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [U] very thin rather stiff cotton material, used esp. for women's dresses

organ grind-er /'ɔ: ,grɪnd-ər/ *n* **1** a street musician who plays a BARREL ORGAN and often has a monkey dressed like a human **2** *BrE sl* the person in charge: *I've come to speak to the organ grinder, not his monkey!*

or-gan-ic /'ɔ: 'gænik/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *adj* **1** of or for living things or the organs of the body: *chemistry/diseases/architecture* – opposite **inorganic** **2** a made of parts with specialized purposes: *an organic system* **b** [(to)] being one of these parts; necessary: *The music is organic to the story.* **3** (of food) produced without the help of artificial chemicals: *organic vegetables* | *beef* | *bread*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Organic food is usu. more expensive than non-organic food, and is bought by people interested in eating healthy foods. ◀

– ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*

organic farm-ing /'ɔ: ,fɑ:m-ɪŋ/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [U] a method of farming in which food is grown without the help of artificial chemicals

or-gan-is-m /'ɔ: 'gæniʒəm/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* **1** a living being **2** a whole system made of specialized parts

or-gan-ist /'ɔ: 'gæniʃt/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* a musician who plays an ORGAN (4a)

or-gan-i-za-tion also **-sation** *BrE* /'ɔ: 'gænaɪ 'zeɪʃən/ || 'ɔ:rgənə-/ *n* **1** [C] a group of people with a special purpose, such as a club or business: *to set up/found/run a charity organization* **2** [U] the arrangement or planning of parts so as to form an effective whole: *Efficiency depends on good organization.* – ~ **al** *adj*: *organizational ability* – ~ **ally** *adv*

Organization of A-mer-i-can States /'ɔ: ,ɑ:m-ɪ-ˈkən- 'steɪt-s/ || [the] see OAS

or-gan-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'ɔ: 'gænaɪz/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *v* **1** [T] to arrange into a good working system: *to organize one's facts in order to make a speech* | *I must try to organize my life a bit better.* **2** [T] to make the necessary arrangements for: *Who is organizing this year's office party?* | *I'll try and organize a lift for you.* **3** [I;T] esp. *AmE* for UNIONIZE – **-izer** *n*

or-gan-ized also **-ised** *BrE* /'ɔ: 'gænaɪzɪd/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *adj* having good and effective organization: *I'm afraid I'm not very organized this morning.* | *a well-organized house* – opposite **disorganized**

organized crime /'ɔ: ,ɑ:z-ɪd/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [U] (the activities of) professional criminals operating in large well-organized groups: *Most of the trade in hard drugs is now controlled by organized crime.* – see also MAFIA

or-gas-m /'ɔ: 'gæzəm/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [C;U] the highest point of sexual pleasure – **-mic** /'ɔ: 'gæzmɪk/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *adj*

or-gi-as-tic /'ɔ: 'dʒi 'æstɪk/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *adj* **1** of or like an orgy **2** full of excitement or wild activity

or-gy /'ɔ: 'dʒi/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* **1** a wild party, usu. with large quantities of food, alcohol, etc., and esp. with sexual activity: *a drunken orgy* **2** [(of)] *infml* an activity or set of activities done too much, or without control: *They embarked on an orgy of sightseeing/of spending.*

or-i-el win-dow /'ɔ: 'ri:əl ,wɪndəʊ/ *n* *tech* an upper window that is built out from a wall

or-ri-ent¹ /'ɔ: 'ri:ənt, 'ɔ:ri-/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *v* [T] esp. *AmE* to ORIENTATE

orient² *adj* [A] poet **1** eastern **2** (of the sun) rising

Orient *n* [the] esp. *fml* or *lit* the eastern part of the world; Asia – compare OCCIDENT, EAST

or-ri-en-tal /'ɔ: 'ri:entl/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n, adj* (sometimes *cap.*) (a person) of or from the Orient – compare OCCIDENTAL, and see SUBCONTINENTAL (USAGE NOTE)

or-ri-en-tal-ist /'ɔ: 'ri:entəlɪst/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* a specialist in the languages, civilizations, etc., of the countries of the Orient, including the Middle East

or-ri-en-tate /'ɔ: 'ri:entet/ || 'ɔ:r-/ also **orient** esp. *AmE* – *v* [T] **1** [often *pass.*] to arrange or direct with a particular purpose: *an English language course that is orientated towards the needs of businessmen* | *an export-oriented company* (=which deals mostly in EXPORTS) | *a text-oriented microcomputer* **2** to establish the position of (oneself or something else), esp. in relation to a map or COMPASS: *The climbers stopped to orientate themselves before descending the mountain.* – see also DISORIENTATE

or-ri-en-ta-tion /'ɔ: 'ri:ən'teɪʃən, 'ɔ:r-/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [C;U] **1** a position or direction: (fig.) *a new orientation in life* **2** [U] *AmE* preparation for a new, usu. long-lasting activity: *The new students have three days of orientation before classes begin.* || *an orientation meeting for the workshop*

or-ri-en-teer-ing /'ɔ: 'ri:ən'tiəriŋ/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [U] a sport in which people have to find their way quickly across unknown country, using a map and COMPASS

Orient Ex-press /'ɔ: ,ɪn- 'preɪs/ || [the] a railway train for the rich which became famous for making the journey from Europe (starting in London) all the way across Asia. It now runs regularly only between London and Venice.

or-i-fice /'ɔ: 'rɪfɪs/ || 'ɔ:r-, 'ɑ:r-/ *n* *fml* or *humor* an opening; hole, esp. in the body

or-ri-ga-mi /'ɔ: 'rɪgəmi/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [U] the Japanese art of folding paper to make decorative objects such as birds, animals, etc.

or-i-gin /'ɔ: 'rɪdʒɪn/ || 'ɔ:r-, 'ɑ:r-/ *n* **1** [C;U] a starting point: *the origin of a river/of a belief* | *a word of unknown origin* **2** [U] also **origins** *pl.* – parents and conditions of early life: *a woman of humble origin(s)* (=from a low social class or a poor family)

or-ig-i-nal¹ /'ɔ: 'rɪdʒɪnəl, -dʒənəl/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] first; earliest: *The original owner of the house was a Frenchman.* **2** often *apprec* new and different; unlike others: *an original idea/invention* | *a very original thinker* | *How original of you!* – opposite **unoriginal** **3** [A] not copied: *an original (painting by) Picasso* – see also ORIGINALLY

original² *n* **1** [C] (of a painting, official paper, etc.) the one from which copies have been or can be made: *Which museum is the original in?* **2** [the+S] the language in which something was originally written: *They are studying Arabic in order to read the Koran in the original.* **3** [C] *infml*, sometimes *humor* or *derog* a person whose behaviour, clothing, etc., are unusual

or-ig-i-nal-i-ty /'ɔ: 'rɪdʒɪnəlɪti/ *n* [U] often *apprec* the quality of being ORIGINAL¹ (2): *Her book shows great originality.*

or-ig-i-nal-ly /'ɔ: 'rɪdʒɪnəli, -dʒənəli/ *adv* **1** in the beginning; formerly: *The family originally came from France.* | *It was originally conceived as a biography, but became a novel.* **2** in a new and different way: *a very originally written play*

original sin /'ɔ: ,ɑ:ri- 'sɪn/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [U] the state of disobedience to God which everyone is in from birth, according to Christian teaching, because Adam picked the fruit in the garden of Eden – see also FALL

or-ig-i-nate /'ɔ: 'rɪdʒɪneɪt/ *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to have as an established starting point: *This TV series originated in/from a short story.* **2** [T] to be the first person to establish: *She originated a discussion group.* – **-nator** *n*

Origin of Species [the] see ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES

or-i-son /'ɔ: 'rɪzən/ || 'ɔ:r-, 'ɑ:r-/ *n* *old use* a prayer

Ork-ney /'ɔ: 'kni/ || 'ɔ:r-/ a group of islands, also known as the **Orkney Islands** or the **Orkneys**, off the N coast of Scotland; mainly farmland but also serving as a base for the North Sea oil industry. The main town is Kirkwall. – see colour map on page 818

Or-lan-do /'ɔ: 'lændəʊ/ || 'ɔ:r-/ a city in Florida, US which claims that it attracts more tourists than anywhere else in the world, mainly because of DISNEY WORLD and other large amusement parks – see colour map on pages 1374-5

Or-ly Air-port /'ɔ: 'li 'eəpɔ:t/ || 'ɔ:rli 'eəpɔ:t/ also **Orly** – an international airport SE of Paris, France

or-mo-lu /'ɔ: 'mɒlu:/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [U] a gold-coloured mixture of metals, not containing real gold: *an ormolu clock*

or-na-ment¹ /'ɔ: 'næmənt/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *n* **1** [C] an object possessed because it is (thought to be) beautiful rather than because it is useful: *little ornaments on the mantelpiece* **2** [U] something that is added to make something else more beautiful: *very plain architecture, with little ornament* **3** [C (to)] *fml* sometimes *derog* a person or thing that adds honour, importance, or beauty (but not necessarily usefulness or cleverness): *She is an ornament to her profession.* | *Her escort is strictly an ornament, he doesn't seem to have a brain cell working.*

or-na-ment² /'ɔ: 'næmənt/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *v* [T (with)] to add ornament to: *a finely ornamented ceiling*

or-na-men-tal /'ɔ: 'nə'mentl/ || 'ɔ:r-/ *adj* providing or used as

ornament; DECORATIVE: *a photograph in an ornamental frame* | *The buttons on this dress are only ornamental.* (=you cannot unfasten them) | *an ornamental bush* — *~ly adv*

or-na-men-ta-tion /ˌɔːnəmenˈteɪʃən||ˌɔːr-/ *n* [U] the quality of having or adding ornament

or-nate /ɔːˈneɪt||ˌɔːr-/ *adj* sometimes derog having a great deal of decoration; not simple: *an ornate style* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

or-ne-ry /ˈɔːnəri||ˌɔːr-/ *adj* humor, esp. AmE bad-tempered

or-ni-thol-o-gy /ˌɔːnɪθˈɒlədʒi||ˌɔːrɪθˈɒl-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of birds — **-gist** *n* — **-gical** /ˌɔːnɪθˈɒlədʒɪkəl||ˌɔːrɪθˈɒl-/ *adj*

o-ro-tund /ˈɒrəʊtʌnd||ˌɔːrə-/ *adj* fml **1** full and strong in sound **2** foolishly solemn

or-phan¹ /ˈɔːfən||ˌɔːr-/ *n* a person, esp. a child, whose parents are both dead; sometimes used of a person who has one parent only left alive

orphan² *v* [T usu. pass.] to cause to be an orphan: *She was orphaned when her parents died in a plane crash.*

or-phan-age /ˈɔːfənɪdʒ||ˌɔːr-/ *n* a place where orphan children live

Or-phe-us and Eu-ry-di-ce /ˌɔːfɪəs ənd juːˈrɪdʒi||ˌɔːr-/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a loving husband and wife. Orpheus was a wonderful musician, and even wild animals and birds would stay and listen to him. When Eurydice died he followed her down into HADES and sang to the king and queen there, who allowed Eurydice to leave as long as Orpheus did not look round to see if she was following him. He did look round and so he lost her.

Orr /ɔːr/, **Bobby** (1948–) a Canadian ICE HOCKEY player

or-re-ry /ˈɒrəri||ˌɔː-, ˈɑː-/ *n* an apparatus used for showing the positions and movements of bodies in the SOLAR SYSTEM

Or-te-ga /ɔːˈteɪgə || ˌɔːr-/ **Daniel** (1945–) a Nicaraguan Socialist politician, a member of the Sandinista Liberation Front, and head of state from 1981. His government was opposed by the Contras.

or-tho-don-tics /ˌɔːθəˈdɒntɪks||ˌɔːrθəˈdɔːn-/ *n* [U] *tech* the skill or process of causing teeth that are not growing correctly to grow straight — **orthodontist** *n*: *My orthodontist has made my teeth much straighter.* — **orthodontic** *adj*

or-tho-dox /ˌɔːθədɒks||ˌɔːrθədɔːks/ *adj* **1** generally or officially accepted: *orthodox ideas* **2** holding accepted (esp. religious) opinions: *an orthodox Muslim* — see also UNORTHODOX — **~doxy** *n* [U]: *I would question the orthodoxy of his research methods.*

Orthodox Church /ˌɔːθədɒks ˈtʃɜːtʃ/ also **Eastern Orthodox Church** — [the] any of several Christian churches esp. in eastern Europe and parts of Asia. The Orthodox churches regard the Communion as the central part of their worship. The LITURGY is always sung.

Orthodox Jew /ˌɔːθədɒks ˈjuː/ *n* a believer in Orthodox Judaism, which says that God's law must be followed exactly rather than used only as a set of principles to live by. Orthodox Jews sometimes dress in a particular way, the men being noticeable for their long beards and large black hats.

or-thog-ra-phy /ɔːˈθɒgrəfi||ˌɔːrˈθɔː-/ *n* [U] **1** spelling in general **2** correct spelling — **-phic(al)** /ˌɔːθəˈgræfɪk-(ə)l||ˌɔːr-/ *adj* — **-phically** /kli/ *adv*

or-tho-pae-dic, **-pedic** /ˌɔːθəˈpiːdɪk||ˌɔːr-/ *adj* of the branch of medicine (**orthopaedics**) that deals with making bones grow straight: *an orthopaedic hospital/specialist*

Or-well /ˈɔːwel||ˌɔːr-/ **George** (1903–50) an English writer best known for his NOVELS about TOTALITARIAN government, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Animal Farm* — see also ANIMAL FARM, NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

OS /ˌəʊ ˈes/ *abbrev. for:* **1** ORDNANCE SURVEY **2** OUTSIZE

O-sa-ka /əʊˈsɑːkə/ a city in Japan, the second largest in Japan

Os-borne /ˈɒzbɔːn||ˈɑːzbɔːrn/, **John** (1929–) an English

writer of plays whose most famous works are *Look Back in Anger* and *The Entertainer* — see also ANGRY YOUNG MAN

Os-car /ˈɒskəːr||ˈɑːs-/ *n* **1** (a small STATUE given as) an American cinema prize each year: *She won the Oscar for Best Actress.* | *The film was nominated for two Oscars.* the Oscars (=the prize-giving ceremony) — see also ACADEMY AWARD; compare EMMY **2** a character from the children's television programme *Sesame Street*, who lives in a DUSTBIN and is dirty and rude, but still lovable



an Oscar

os-cil-late /ˈɒsjleɪt||ˈɑː-/ *v* [I] **1** *tech* to keep moving regularly from side to side, between two limits: *an oscillating pendulum* **2** [(between)] to vary between opposing choices; VACILLATE

os-cil-la-tion /ˌɒsjˈleɪʃən||ˈɑː-/ *n* **1** [U] the action of oscillating **2** [C] a single movement of something that is oscillating

os-cil-la-tor /ˈɒsjleɪtəːr||ˈɑː-/ *n* **1** a person or thing that oscillates **2** *tech* a machine that produces electrical oscillations

os-cu-la-tion /ˌɒskjʊˈleɪʃən||ˈɑː-/ *n* [U] *pomp & humor* the act of kissing

OSF /ˌəʊ es ˈef/ *abbrev. for:* OPEN SOFTWARE FOUNDATION

OSHA /ˈəʊʃə/ the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; a US government office that looks after the safety and health conditions of people at work

OSI /ˌəʊ es ˈaɪ/ open systems interconnection; an international plan to make different types of computers able to exchange information over wires or telephone lines by setting standards for the way it is organized (ORGANIZE) and sent

o-si-er /ˈəʊziəːr||ˈəʊzəːr/ *n* a tree (a type of WILLOW) whose branches are used for making baskets

O-si-ris /əʊˈsaɪərɪs/ an ancient Egyptian god-king of the sun and the dead, husband and brother of Isis

Os-lo /ˈɒzləʊ||ˈɑːz-/ a city in SE Norway, the country's capital and chief port

Os-mond /ˈɒzmənd||ˈɑːz-/ the name of a family of American entertainers who are known esp. for being clean, morally good, and religious, esp. singers **Donny Osmond** (1957–) and his sister **Marie Osmond** (1959–)

os-mo-sis /ɒzˈməʊsɪs||ˈɑːz-/ *n* [U] *tech* the gradual passing of liquid through a MEMBRANE (=a skinlike wall): (fig.) *If you don't tell me, how am I supposed to know — by osmosis?* (=TELEPATHY) — **-tic** /ɒzˈmɒtɪk||ˈɑːzˈmɑː-/ *adj* — **-tically** /kli/ *adv*

os-prey /ˈɒspri-, -preɪ||ˈɑː-/ *n* a type of large fish-eating bird

OSS /ˌəʊ es ˈes/ the Office of Strategic Services; a department of the US government established in 1942 to collect information about foreign enemies (SPY). It was replaced by the CIA in 1947.

os-se-ous /ˈɒsiəs||ˈɑː-/ *adj* med bony

os-si-fy /ˈɒsjfaɪ||ˈɑː-/ *v* [I;T] **1** *tech* to (cause to) change into bone **2** to (cause to) become hard and unchanging in one's ideas — **-fication** /ˌɒsjfɪˈkeɪʃən||ˈɑː-/ *n* [U]

Os-tend /ɒstˈend||ˈɑːst-/ a town and port in NW Belgium, on the North Sea, known to many British people because of the ferries (FERRY) that go there from SE England

os-ten-si-ble /ɒˈstensɪbəl||ˈɑː-/ *adj* [A] (esp. of reasons) seeming or pretended, but perhaps not really true: *Her ostensible reason for failing the exam was illness.* — **-bly** *adv*: *ostensibly for love, but really for money*

os-ten-ta-tion /ˌɒstənˈteɪʃən, -ten- || ˈɑː-/ *n* [U] derog unnecessary show of wealth, knowledge, etc. — **-tious** *adj*: *an ostentatious lifestyle* — **-tiously** *adv*

os-te-o-path /ˈɒstiəpəθ||ˈɑː-/ *n* a person who treats illness

and physical problems by the system (**osteopathy** /ˌɒstiˈɒpəθi/, ˌɑːstiˈɑː-/ of moving and pressing muscles and bones

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain osteopaths receive training in osteopathy but are usu. not qualified in medicine and do not usu. work for the National Health Service. In the US, osteopaths have the same training as Doctors of Medicine, and their professional standing is the same. —compare **CHIROPRACTOR** ◀

os-tler /ˈɒslər/ ˌɑː-/ also **hostler** esp. AmE— *n* (in former times) a man who took care of guests' horses at a small hotel

os-tra-cize also **-cise** BrE /ˈɒstrəsaɪz/ ˌɑː-/ *v* [T] (of a group of people) to stop accepting (someone) as a member of the group: *The people who refused to join the strike have been ostracized by their workmates.* — ~ **cism** /saɪzəm/ *n* [U]

os-trich /ˈɒstrɪtʃ/ ˌɔː-, ˌɑː-/ *n* 1 a very large African bird with beautiful feathers, which runs very quickly but cannot fly 2 *infml* a person who hides away from unpleasant reality (from the belief that the ostrich puts its head in the sand and then thinks that all of its body is hidden): *It's no good playing ostrich. You have to face up to things.*



ostrich

Os-wald /ˈɒzwɔld/ ˌɑːz-/ Lee Harvey (1939–63) the man who is said to have shot the US President John F Kennedy in 1963

OTC /ˌəʊ tiː ˈsiː/ see OVER-THE-COUNTER (1)

O-thel-lo /əˈθeləʊ/ the black MOORISH main character in Shakespeare's play of the same name who killed his faithful wife, Desdemona, because he was made to believe that she had a lover

oth-er /ˈʌðər/ *determiner, pron* 1 the second of two; the remaining one of a set; what is left as well as that mentioned: *She was holding the wheel with one hand and waving with the other (one).* | *She's cleverer than (any of) the others/than the other girls in her class.* | *Mary's here. Where are all the others?* | *These trousers are wet — I'll change into my others/my other ones.* (=I have only two pairs) | *We go to Europe every other year.* (=every two years) 2 an additional person or thing; more as well: *Are there any other problems?* | *There are plenty of other ways of getting there than by car.* | *I saw John with some other boys.* (compare *John with some girls*) | *A few of them are red; others are brown.* (=some of the remaining ones are brown) | *A few of them are red; the others are brown.* (=all the rest are brown) 3 not the same; not this, not oneself, not one's own, etc.: *He enjoys spending other people's money.* (=not his own) | *You should try to be more sensitive to the needs of others.* (=other people) | *He came here for other reasons (than the food and the beer).* | *I'm busy tonight — can I meet you some other time?* | *The company says it has to reduce its labour costs — in other words* (=this means) — *some of us are going to lose our jobs.* 4 [usu. in negatives] **other than:** a except; apart from: *There was nothing we could do other than wait.* | *You can't get there other than by boat.* b anything but: *She can hardly be other than annoyed about it.* (=she is certain to be annoyed) 5 **the other end/side** the far or opposite of two ends/sides from this one: *a voice at the other end of the telephone* | *a car parked on the other side of the street* | *They live on the other side of town.* —opposite **this end/side** 6 **the other day/afternoon/evening/night** on a recent day/afternoon/evening/night —see also **EACH OTHER**, **every other** (EVERY), **on the other hand** (HAND¹), **one after the other/after another** (ONE), **this, that, and the other** (THIS); compare **one day** (ONE), **next day** (NEXT)

► **USAGE Other** is not used after *an*. The word is then **another**: *They need another ticket/some other tickets.* | *Would you like another/some others?* ◀

other half /ˌʌðər ˈhaɪf/ *n infml humor* 1 a person's wife or husband: *I've met Bert, but I haven't met his other half yet.* 2 see **how the other half lives** to see how very wealthy people live

oth-er-wise /ˈʌðəwaɪz/ ˌʌðər-/ *adv* 1 in a different way;

differently: *She says it's genuine, but we think otherwise.* | *You are presumed to be innocent until proved otherwise.* (=proved not to be) | *I was unable to attend the conference because I was otherwise engaged.* (=busy with something else) 2 apart from that; in other ways: *The soup was cold, but otherwise the meal was excellent/but it was an otherwise excellent meal.* 3 if not: *You'd better go now, otherwise you'll miss your train.* 4 **or otherwise:** a or in some other way: *We'll get there somehow, by train or otherwise.* b or not: *mothers, whether married or otherwise*

oth-er-world-ly /ˌʌðərˈwɜːldli-/ ˌʌðərˈwɜːr-/ *adj* sometimes derog more concerned with things of the spirit or mind than with material things —compare **WORLDLY** (2)

o-ti-ose /ˈəʊfiəs, ˈəʊti-/ *adj fml* (of ideas, words, etc.) unnecessary; REDUNDANT

OTT /ˌəʊ tiː ˈtiː/ *adj* BrE OVER-THE-TOP

Ot-ta-wa /ˈɒtəwə/ ˌɑːt-/ the capital city of Canada, in the SE of the country, and its seat of government. One third of its people are French-speaking.

ot-ter /ˈɒtər/ ˌɑː-/ *n* a swimming fish-eating animal with beautiful brown fur

ot-to-man /ˈɒtəmən/ ˌɑː-/ *n* 1 a long soft seat without back or arms, sometimes hollow and used for storing things 2 AmE a piece of soft furniture, usu. half a metre high and round or square, which sits in front of a chair for resting the feet

Ottoman Em-pire /ˌɒtəmən ˈem-paɪr/ [the] a large state which was begun by the Turks in the 13th century and lasted until after the First World War. The land which is now Turkey was only part of the Ottoman Empire, which included parts of modern Asia, Europe, and Africa.

OU /ˌəʊ ˈjuː/ *abbrev. for:* OPEN UNIVERSITY

ou-bli-ette /ˌuːbliˈet/ *n* (esp. in old castles) a small room that could be entered only from above, where prisoners could be kept

ouch /aʊtʃ/ *interj* (a cry expressing sudden pain): *“Ouch! You hit my finger!”*

ought /ɔːt/ *v* 3rd person sing. **ought** present tense negative short form **oughtn't** /ˈɔːtənt/ [modal+to-v] 1 to have the moral duty to do something; should: *She ought to look after her children better.* | *You ought to be ashamed of yourself.* | *I wonder whether I oughtn't to speak to him about it.* | *He ought to be punished, oughtn't he?* (=someone should punish him) | *He oughtn't to have said that (but he did).* 2 (shows that some action would be right or sensible): *You ought to be more careful, you know.* | *Oughtn't he(fml) ought he not to see a doctor?* | *We really ought to buy a new car, oughtn't we?* | *This old coat ought to have been thrown away years ago.* | *You ought to* (=I wish you could) *hear her play the piano!* 3 will probably; can be expected to do something: *Prices ought to come down soon.* | *They ought to win easily.* —see **NOT (USAGE)**

► **USAGE 1 Ought** and **should** are similar in meaning but **ought** is slightly stronger in British English. In American English there is no significant difference in force or sense, and any differences in usage are dialectal (DIALECT). 2 **Oughtn't** and **shouldn't** are used to warn that an action is wrong or unwise: *You oughtn't to/shouldn't talk so loud; you'll wake the baby.* Compare **needn't** which means that something is unnecessary: *You needn't talk so loud; I can hear you.* 3 The past form of **ought** is **ought to have**: *You ought to have/should have helped him.* (=but you did not) | *You oughtn't to have/shouldn't have hit him.* (=but you did) —see also **MUST (USAGE)** ◀

oui-ja board /ˈwiːdʒə bɔːd/ ˈwiːdʒɪz bɔːrd/ *n tdmk* (often cap. O) a board with letters and signs on it, which people use to try to receive messages from the spirits of the dead

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Most people in Britain and the US do not believe that ouija boards work, but they are sometimes used for fun at parties. However, some people believe that it is very dangerous to use them, because the spirits of the dead may be harmful. ◀

ounce /aʊns/ (written abbrev. **oz**)— *n* 1 [C] either of two units of weight: *Six ounces of cheese, please.* —see **TABLE 2** 2 [S+of] (even) a small amount: *Haven't you got an ounce of sense?*

our /aʊər/ *determiner* (possessive form of **WE**) of or belonging to us: *We told him that our daughter was in France.* |

Have you seen our new car? | It was our happiest moment. | our modern world | one of our (=this country's) most famous actors

Our Fa·ther /ɪ·'fɑːr/ *n* [the] the LORD'S PRAYER

Our La·dy /ɪ·'lɑːdi/ Mary, the mother of Christ

Our Lord /ɪ·'lɔːd/ God or Christ, in the Christian religion

Our Man in Ha·van·a /ɪ·'mæn·ɪn·hə·vən·ə/ a book written in 1958 by Graham Greene about a man who was the British government's SECRET AGENT in Havana

Our Mu·tu·al Friend /ɪ·'mjuːəl·frɛnd/ a book written in 1864–65 by Charles Dickens

ours /aʊəz/ [aʊərz/ *pron* (possessive form of WE) (the one or ones) of or belonging to us: *This is your room, and ours (=our room) is next door. | Ours is/are on the table. | She said it was hers, but we insisted it was ours. | He's a friend of ours.*

our·selves /aʊə'selvz/ [aʊər-/ *pron* 1 (reflexive form of WE): *We saw ourselves on television. | We bought ourselves a car.* 2 (strong form of WE): *We built the house ourselves.* 3 *infml* (in) our usual state of mind or body: *We soon came to ourselves.* (=regained consciousness) 4 (all) **by ourselves**: **a** alone; without help: *We did it all by ourselves.* **b** alone; without anyone else: *We walked home by ourselves.* —see YOURSELF (USAGE) 5 **to ourselves** for our private use; not shared: *a bathroom to ourselves*

Ouse /uːz/ [the] 1 also **Great Ouse**— a river in E England which begins in Northamptonshire and flows NE to join the Wash near the town of King's Lynn 2 a river in NE England, formed by the joining of the Rivers Swale and Ure in Yorkshire, which flows SE to the Humber

oust /aʊst/ *v* [T (from)] to force (someone) out, and perhaps take their place: *She ousted him as manager/from his position.*

ous·ter /'aʊstər/ *n* AmE an act of ousting

out¹ /aʊt/ *adj, adv* [F] 1 away from the inside; in or to the outdoors, the outside, etc.: *Open the bag and take the money out. | Blood poured out from the wound. | It's not in my pocket — it must have fallen out. | Shut the door to keep the wind out. | He put his tongue out at her. | She opened the cage and let the bird out.* (=let it go free) | *I went to the bank and drew out £100.* (=took it from my account) | *I opened the box and out jumped a mouse.* (note word order) —see OUTSIDE (USAGE) 2 **a** away from home or from a building: *Let's have an evening out at the theatre. | It's rather cold out. | They've invited me out for dinner. | She stays out late at nights. | tramps sleeping out (in the park)* **b** not in one's usual place; absent: *I'm afraid Mr Jones is out/has just gone out. | (BrE) The dockers came out (=on STRIKE) in sympathy with the miners.* 3 away from land, a town, or one's own country: *They live right out in the country. | to go out to Africa* 4 **a** away from a surface or edge: *I tore my coat on a nail that was sticking out from the wall. | a piece of land jutting out into the sea* **b** away from a set of things: *Pick out the best of the apples.* 5 to a number of people or in all directions: *to hand out drinks/exam papers | to spread out the cloth | to share out the profits* 6 **a** so as to be clearly seen, shown, understood, etc.: *Think/Plan it out properly. | Their secret is out. | The sun came out. | Are the daffodils out yet?* (=fully open) | *The black trees stood out against the snow. | When does his new book come out?* (=when will it be on sale in the shops?) | *A quarrel broke out.* **b** esp. AmE open and not secretive, esp. about homosexuality (HOMOSEXUAL): *He isn't out to his parents yet.* (=They don't know he's homosexual) | *Her husband sympathizes with our cause, but he isn't very out about it.* —see also OUT² (2); compare CLOSET² 7 in a loud voice; aloud: *Read/Call out the names. | (fig.) If you disagree you should speak out.* (=say what you think) 8 completely; so as to be finished: *to clean out the room | I'm tired out. | He'll be back before the month is out.* (=is ended) | *Let's try and sort out this mess.* 9 so as to no longer exist: *to wash out the dirty marks | They had to cut short their holiday when their money ran out.* 10 **a** (of a fire or light) no longer burning: *The fire's gone out. | Please put your cigarette out.* **b** *infml* (of a machine) no longer working; not in ORDER¹ (3): *The elevator's out again.* 11 (so as to be) no longer conscious or awake: *He was knocked out in the second round of the fight. | I went out like a light* (=fell asleep) as soon as I got into bed. 12 no longer in a position of power: *The Republicans are out. | They were voted out at the last election.* 13 no longer fashionable: *Long skirts*

went out last year. 14 completely unsuitable or impossible: *That suggestion's absolutely out.* 15 (of a guess or sum, or the person responsible for it) wrong: *The bill was £4 out. | You're badly out in your calculations.* 16 **a** (of a player or team in a game such as cricket or BASEBALL) no longer allowed to take part, according to the rules: *Sussex are all out for 351. | Andrews is out at second base. | Gooch was 84 not out.* **b** (of the ball in a game such as tennis or BASKETBALL) outside the line —opposite **in**; see also OUT-OF-BOUNDS 17 (of the TIDE) away from the coast; low 18 *BrE* (after a superlative) ever; existing: *He's the stupidest man out. | He's out and away* (=much) *the stupidest man I know.* 19 **out and about** (of someone who has been ill) able to get up and leave the house —compare **up and about** (UP³) 20 **out for** trying to get: *Don't trust him — he's only out for your money.* 21 **out to** trying to: *Be careful: he's out to get* (=harm) *you. | They're out to win.* 22 **out to lunch** AmE humor slightly mad; confused: *Sometimes he's really out to lunch with his reorganization ideas. | She wasn't just out to lunch, this woman was out to every meal.* (=quite mad) 23 **Out with it!** *infml* Say it! 24 **Out you go!** *infml* Go out!

out of¹ /ɪ·'f/ *prep* 1 from inside; away from: *We're moving out of our flat. | to jump out of bed | to walk out of the room* 2 from a state of: *to wake up out of a deep sleep | We're out of danger* (=safe) *now. | The car went out of control.* 3 beyond the limits of: *out of sight/earshot* (=to where a thing cannot be seen/heard) 4 from among: *Three out of four people choose "Silver Fox" soap!* 5 not having; without: *We're nearly out of petrol. | He's been out of work/out of a job* (=unable to get a job) *for six months.* 6 because of: *I came out of interest.* 7 (shows what something is made from): *made out of wood* 8 *tech* having (the stated female animal, esp. a horse) as a mother: *Golden Trumpet, by Golden Rain out of Silver Trumpet* —compare BY¹ (18) 9 **out of it (all)**: **a** lonely and unhappy because one is not included in something: *I felt rather out of it in France because I can't speak French.* **b** *infml* not thinking clearly 10 **out of one's head/mind** *infml* mad —see also **out of the blue** (BLUE² (5)), **out of the question** (QUESTION¹), **out of sorts** (SORT¹), **out of this world** (WORLD)

out² *prep infml* (used for showing an outward movement): *He went out the door.*

out³ *adj* 1 [A] directed outwards; used for sending or going out: *Put the letter in the out tray* (BrE)/*out box* (AmE). —opposite **in** 2 **out-and-out** complete; total: *an out-and-out lie*

out⁴ *v* [T] *infml* 1 to throw out; EJECT 2 to tell something that a person would rather keep secret, esp. to declare (a person) publicly to be HOMOSEXUAL: *Gay activists threatened to out several MPs* 3 [I] to become known: *Murder will out.* (=cannot be kept secret) | *Truth will out.*

out⁵ *n* 1 [S] an excuse for leaving an activity or for avoiding blame —see also INS AND OUTS 2 [C] (in games such as BASEBALL) an act of a player becoming out: *Is that one out or two? | That isn't an out, he dropped the ball.*

out- see WORD FORMATION

out·age /'aʊtɪdʒ/ *n* a period when something normally supplied is missing, esp. electricity: *a power outage*

out·back /'aʊtbæk/ *n* [the+S] the part of Australia that is far away from cities

out·bal·ance /aʊt'bæləns/ *v* [T] to be of greater weight or importance than; OUTWEIGH

out·bid /aʊt'bid/ *v* -bid, present participle -bidding [T] to offer a higher price than (someone else) esp. at an AUCTION: *We badly wanted the cottage but I'm afraid we were outbid.*

out·board mo·tor /,aʊtbɔːd 'məʊtər/ [-bɔːrd-/ *n* a motor fixed to the back end of a small boat —compare INBOARD

out·bound /'aʊtbaʊnd/ *adj* moving away from the speaker or the starting point: *outbound traffic at the beginning of a holiday weekend* —opposite **inbound** (esp. AmE)

out·brave /aʊt'breɪv/ *v* [T] to fight bravely against, usu. with success

out·break /'aʊtbreɪk/ *n* [(of)] a sudden appearance or beginning of something bad: *an outbreak of disease | sporadic outbreaks of fighting* —see also BREAK OUT

out·build·ing /'aʊt,bɪldɪŋ/ also **outhouse** BrE— *n* a smaller building forming part of a group with a larger main building: *the farm and its outbuildings*

out-burst /'aʊtbɜːst/ *n* [(of)] a sudden powerful expression of a activity: *outbursts of gunfire* **b** feeling: *outbursts of laughter/weeping* —compare **OUTPOURINGS**; see also **BURST out**

out-cast /'aʊtkɑːst/ *n, adj* (a person) forced from his/her home or without friends: *an outcast from society* —see also **CAST out**

out-caste /'aʊtkɑːst/ *n, adj* (a person) not, or no longer, a member of a fixed social class (CASTE) in India

out-class /aʊt'klaːs/ *v* [T] to be very much better than: *She outclasses all of us at tennis.*

out-come /'aʊtkʌm/ *n* [(of)] *usu. sing.* an effect; result: *We are anxiously awaiting the outcome of their discussion.* —see also **COME out**

out-crop /'aʊtkrɒp/ *n* a rock or group of rocks which appears at the surface of the ground

out-cry /'aʊtkraɪ/ *n* a public expression of anger: *There'll be a great outcry if they try to close the railway.*

out-dat-ed /aʊt'deɪtɪd/ *adj* no longer in general use; out of date: *outdated ideas/customs*

out-dis-tance /aʊt'dɪstəns/ *v* [T] to go further or faster than (esp. in a race)

out-do /aʊt'duː/ *v* **-did** /'dɪd/, **-done** /'dʌn/, *3rd person sing. present tense* **-does** /'dʌz/ [T] to do or be better than (someone else): *She outdid him in running and in swimming.* | *The Smiths built a swimming pool in their back garden and, not to be outdone, their neighbours built an even bigger one.*

out-door /'aʊtdɔːr/ *adj* [A] existing, happening, done, or used outside: *outdoor shoes* | *to lead an outdoor life* | *a teacher of outdoor activities* —opposite **indoor**

out-doors¹ /aʊt'dɔːz/ *adv* also **out of doors**— *adv* outside; in the open air: *I haven't been outdoors all day.* | *children playing outdoors* —opposite **indoors** —**outdoorsy** *adj infml*: *She's a real outdoorsy person, she goes camping every chance she gets.*

outdoors² *n* [the+S] the open air, esp. far away from any buildings: *hunting in the great outdoors*

out-draw /aʊt'drɔː/ *v* [T] *AmE* **1** to attract more (people): *The jazz festival outdrew the Puerto Rico Day parade.* **2** to draw (a gun) faster

out-er /'aʊtə/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] on the outside; at a greater distance from the middle: *the outer walls* | *outer London* | *outer space* (=where the stars are) —opposite **inner**

Outer He-br-ides /ɪˌˈhɛbrɪdɪz/ also **Western Isles**— [the] a group of islands, part of the Hebrides, off the NW coast of Scotland, further west than the Inner Hebrides. The most important islands are Lewis with Harris, North Uist and South Uist. Many people there still speak Gaelic. The main industries are fishing, farming and making **TWEED**. Stornoway is the largest town.

Outer Mon-go-li-a /ɪˌˈmɒŋɡəliːə/ another name for **MONGOLIA**

out-er-most /'aʊtəməʊst/ *adj* also **outmost**— *adj* [A *no comp.*] furthest outside or furthest from the middle: *the outermost stars* —opposite **inmost, innermost**

outer space /ɪˌˈsɛɪs/ *n* [U] **SPACE**¹ (4)

out-er-wear /'aʊtəweə/ *n* [U] *tech* clothes, such as coats and **JACKETS**, worn over ordinary clothes when outdoors

out-face /aʊt'feɪs/ *v* [T] **1** to meet and deal with bravely —compare **FACE**² **out** **2** also **outstare**— to cause (someone) to look away by looking at them steadily

out-fall /'aʊtfɔːl/ *n* a place where water (e.g. a river or **DRAIN**) flows out

out-field /'aʊtfiːld/ *n* [the+S] **1** the part of a cricket or **BASEBALL** field furthest from the player who is to hit the ball —see picture at **BASEBALL** **2** [+sing./pl. *v*] the players in this part of the field —compare **INFIELD** — **~er** *n*

out-fight /aʊt'faɪt/ *v* **-fought** /'fɔːt/ [T] to fight better than

out-fit¹ /'aʊt,fiːt/ *n* **1** a set of things needed for a particular purpose or of clothes worn together: *a child's cowboy outfit* **2** [+sing./pl. *v*] *infml* a group of people working together

outfit² *v* **-tt-** [T (with)] to provide with an outfit, esp. of clothes or equipment for camping —see also **FIT out** — **~ter** *n*: *a firm of men's outfitters* (=selling men's clothes) | *expedition outfitters*

out-flank /aʊt'flæŋk/ *v* [T] **1** to go round the side of (an

enemy) and attack from behind **2** to gain an advantage over (someone) by doing something unexpected

out-flow /'aʊtfləʊ/ *n* a flowing out: *the outflow of currency from a country*

out-fox /aʊt'fɒks/ *v* [T] to defeat by being cleverer; **OUTWIT**

out-gen-er-al /aʊt'dʒenərəl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* || **-l-** *AmE* [T] to defeat by being a better general or by better planning

out-go-ing /aʊt'gəʊɪŋ/ *adj* **1** [A] leaving; going out; finishing a period in office: *the outgoing president* —compare **INCOMING** **2** eager to mix socially with others; friendly: *We need an outgoing person to receive our foreign visitors.*

out-go-ings /'aʊt,gəʊɪŋz/ *n* [P] *esp. BrE* amounts of money that are spent —compare **INCOME**

out-grow /aʊt'grəʊ/ *v* **-grew** /'gruː/, **-grown** /'grəʊn/ [T] **1** to grow too big or too old for; **GROW out of**: *to outgrow one's clothes/one's childish habits* **2** to grow faster than: *a population outgrowing its resources*

out-growth /'aʊtgrəʊθ/ *n* **1** a natural but perhaps undesirable result: *Crime is often an outgrowth of poverty.* **2** something that grows out: *an outgrowth of hair*

out-guess /aʊt'ges/ *v* [T] to **OUTWIT**, esp. in a situation where knowledge of future events is important

out-Her-od /ɪˌˈhɛrəd/ *v* *BrE* **out-Herod** **Herod** to be more cruel, violent, etc., than anyone else (from King **Herod** in the Bible, who killed all the children under a certain age in his attempt to kill the baby Jesus)

out-house /'aʊthaʊs/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɪz/ **1** *BrE* for **OUTBUILDING** **2** *AmE* an outside **LAVATORY**

outing /'aʊtɪŋ/ *n* **1** a short pleasure trip, esp. for a group of people: *a school outing to the seaside* **2** [U;C] the activity (or an example) of publicly naming people as **HOMOSEXUALS**, when they do not want anyone to know this

out-land-ish /aʊt'lændɪʃ/ *adj* strange and not pleasing: *outlandish clothes/notions* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

out-last /aʊt'lɑːst/ *v* [T] to last longer than

out-law¹ /'aʊtlɔː/ *n* (esp. in former times) a person who has broken the laws of society and now lives outside society, esp. in lonely areas, trying to avoid punishment —see colour picture on page 385

outlaw² *v* [T] **1** to declare (someone) to be an outlaw; take the protection of the law from **2** to declare (something) not legal or not socially acceptable: *Drinking and driving has been outlawed.*

out-lay /'aʊtleɪ/ *n* [(on, for)] money spent for a purpose: *House buyers usually have a large initial outlay on carpets and furniture.* —**outlay** /aʊt'leɪ/ *v* **-laid** /'leɪd/ [T] *esp. AmE*: *to outlay \$200 on/for videotapes* —see also **LAY out**

out-let /'aʊtlet, -lɪt/ *n* [(for)] **1** a way through which something (usu. a liquid or a gas) may go out: (fig.) *an outlet for his feelings* —compare **INLET**; see also **LET out** **2** shops, companies, etc., through which products are sold: *retail outlets* **3** *AmE* for **POINT**¹ (13)

out-line /'aʊtlaɪn/ *n* [(of)] **1** a line showing the shape of something: *the outline of her face in the candlelight* | *to sketch a rough outline map of Europe* **2** the main ideas or facts of something, without details: *an outline of world history/of the main points of the talk* —**outline** *v* [T]: *He outlined their responsibilities.*

out-live /aʊt'lɪv/ *v* [T] to live longer than: *to outlive one's wife* | (fig.) *The machine has outlived its usefulness.* (=is no longer useful)

out-look /'aʊtlʊk/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** a view from a particular place: *a pleasing outlook from the bedroom window onto the garden* —see also **LOOK out** **2** future probabilities: *The weather outlook for the weekend is bad.* | *a poor outlook for the tourist trade* **3** [(on)] one's general point of view: *He has a very strange outlook on life.*

out-ly-ing /'aʊt,laɪ-ɪŋ/ *adj* [A] distant; far (from a city, etc.): *outlying villages*

out-ma-noeu-vre *BrE* || **-neuver** *AmE* /aʊtmə'nuːvə/ *v* [T] to make more effective movements than (an opponent); put in a position of disadvantage

out-mod-ed /aʊt'məʊdɪd/ *adj* no longer in fashion or use: *outmoded beliefs*

out-most /'aʊtməʊst/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] **OUTERMOST**

out-num-ber /aʊtˈnʌmbə/ *v* [T] to be more in numbers than:
We were completely outnumbered by the enemy.

out-of-bounds /ɪˌoʊˈbʌndz/ *adj, adv* **1** outside the permitted border or limit (of a game, activity, etc.): *kick the ball out-of-bounds* | *His behaviour at the party was really out-of-bounds.* (=unacceptable) **2** BrE not open to certain people who do not have permission to go there: *The laboratories are out-of-bounds to all pupils unless a teacher is present.*

out-of-date /ɪˌoʊˈdeɪt/ *adj* no longer in use or in fashion;
OUTDATED

out of doors /ɪˌoʊˈdɔː/ *adv* OUTDOORS

out-of-pock-et ex-pens-es /ɪˌoʊˈpɒk-ət ɪkˈspens-ɪz/ *n* [P] what one has to pay with one's own money for small additional needs, such as meals and travel costs, when doing a job, usu. for someone else — see also **out of pocket** (POCKET¹)

out-of-the-way /ɪˌoʊˈðeɪwə/ *adj* **1** distant; far away from people and places: *an out-of-the-way restaurant* **2** not known by most people; unusual — see also **out of the way** (WAY¹)

out-pa-tient /ˈaʊtˌpeɪʃənt/ *n* a person who goes to a hospital for treatment while continuing to live at home — compare IN-PATIENT

out-per-form /ˌaʊtpəˈfɔːrm-|pəˈfɔːrm/ *v* [T] to perform better than: *The new Chevette outperforms the Vega in all road tests.*

out-play /aʊtˈpleɪ/ *v* [T] to defeat in a game

out-point /aʊtˈpɔɪnt/ *v* [T] to defeat (an opponent in BOXING) by gaining more points

out-post /ˈaʊtpəʊst/ *n* [(of)] a small town or collection of buildings established esp. by settlers in a distant lonely place: *the last outpost of the British Empire*

out-pour-ings /ˈaʊtˌpɔːrɪŋz/ *n* [P] continuous strong expressions of feelings — compare OUTBURST; see also **pour out**

out-put /ˈaʊtpʊt/ *n* [C;U] **1** production: *The car factory hopes to increase its output by 30% next year.* | *an output of 36 tons a day* **2** the product of a computer operation — opposite INPUT; see also I/O — **output v**: *The file is too big to output to the printer.*

out-rage¹ /ˈaʊtreɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C (against)] a very wrong or cruel act: *an outrage against public dignity* | *to commit outrages* **2** [U] anger caused by such an act: *a sense of outrage*

outrage² *v* [T] to offend greatly: *The closing of the hospital has outraged public opinion.*

Outrage a British organization which works to defend and increase the rights of HOMOSEXUALS by organizing (ORGANIZE) marches and DEMONSTRATIONS — compare STONEWALL

out-ra-geous /aʊtˈreɪdʒəs/ *adj* **1** very offensive: *outrageous language/prices* **2** wildly unexpected and unusual: *her outrageous hats* — ~ **ly adv**

out-ran /aʊtˈræn/ *v* past tense of OUTRUN

out-rank /aʊtˈræŋk/ *v* [T] to have a higher rank than (usu. a member of the same group)

ou-tré /ˈuːtreɪ||uːˈtreɪ/ *adj* fml or pomp; usu. derog (of ideas, behaviour, etc.) very strange and unusual

out-reach /ˈaʊtri:tʃ/ *n, adj* esp. AmE of or being a service to people not usu. included: *counselling outreach for shut-ins/disabled*

out-ride /aʊtˈraɪd/ *v* -rode /ˈrəʊd/, -ridden /ˈrɪdn/ [T] to ride faster or further than

out-rid-er /ˈaʊtˌraɪdə/ *n* a guard or attendant riding on a motorcycle or horse, beside or in front of a vehicle usu. containing a very important person

out-rig-ger /ˈaʊtˌrɪgə/ *n* **1** a piece of wood shaped like a small narrow boat which is fixed to the side of a boat (esp. a CANOE) to prevent it from turning over in the water **2** a boat to which this is fixed, used esp. in the South Pacific

out-right¹ /aʊtˈraɪt/ *adv* **1** completely: *He bought the house outright — he doesn't have a mortgage.* | *She won outright.* **2** without delay: *to be killed outright* **3** openly: *Tell him outright just what you think.*

out-right² /ˈaʊtraɪt/ *adj* [A] complete and clear; without any doubt: *the outright winner* | *an outright refusal*

out-ri-val /aʊtˈraɪvəl/ *v* -ll- BrE || -l- AmE [T] to defeat in a competition

out-rode /aʊtˈrəʊd/ *v* past tense of OUTRIDE

out-run /aʊtˈrʌn/ *v* -ran /ˈræn/, -run /ˈrʌn/, present participle -running [T] **1** to run or go faster or further than **2** to go beyond; OVERRUN: *The TV programme outran its time.*

outs /aʊts/ *n* see INS AND OUTS

out-sell /aʊtˈsel/ *v* [T] to sell or be sold in larger quantities than

out-set /ˈaʊtset/ *n* [the+S] the beginning: *There was trouble at/from the outset.*

out-shine /aʊtˈʃaɪn/ *v* -shone /ˈʃɒn||ˈʃəʊn/ [T] **1** to shine more brightly than **2** to be much better than: *She outshines all the other competitors.*

out-side¹ /aʊtˈsaɪd, ˈaʊtsaɪd/ *n* **1** [(the) S] the outer part of a solid object; the part that is furthest from the centre, or that faces away towards other people or towards the open air: *It looked tiny from the outside, but inside it was nice and roomy.* | *to paint the outside of the house* | *a coat with fur on the outside* — opposite **inside** **2** [the+S] the side furthest from the buildings on a road: *Always overtake other vehicles on the outside.* — opposite **inside** **3** a place or situation different from one's own: *An observer from the outside would think we were quite strange.* | *After being in prison, being on the outside is like a holiday.* **4** at the (very) outside at the most; and not more: *It'll cost £100 at the outside.*

out-side² /ˈaʊtsaɪd/ *adj* [A] **1** on or of the outside: *the outside wall* | *an outside lavatory* | *outside repairs* | *driving fast in the outside lane* — opposite **inside**; see also OUTDOOR, OUTER **2** a from elsewhere: *We can't do it ourselves — we must get outside help.* | *an outside broadcast* (=not from the STUDIO) b not belonging to one's regular work: *outside interests* **3** (of a chance or possibility) slight; distant: *There's just an outside chance we'll get the contract after all.* **4** (of things that can be measured) the most that can be allowed or accepted: *an outside figure of £100*

out-side³ /aʊtˈsaɪd/ *adv* **1** to or on the outside: *Come outside a minute.* | *There were some children playing outside in the street.* | *It's quite dark outside — there's no moon.* — opposite **inside**; see also OUTDOORS¹ **2** outside of infml, esp. AmE a except for: *Outside of Jane, there's no one who could do this job.* b outside: *shouts coming from outside of the building*

▷ USAGE Compare **outside** and **out**. If we go **outside** a room or building we remain near it: *Go outside if you want to smoke.* (=you cannot smoke inside the room) If we go **out**, we go from a building to a different place: *Let's go out for a drink/drive.* ◁

out-side⁴ /aʊtˈsaɪd, ˈaʊtsaɪd/ *prep* **1** to or on the outside of (something solid): *to wait just outside the door* — opposite **inside** **2** beyond the limits of; not in: *to stay somewhere outside New York* | *It's quite outside my experience.* | *a job to be done outside working hours* — opposite **within**

out-sid-er /aʊtˈsaɪdə/ *n* **1** a person who is not accepted as a member of a particular social group — compare INSIDER **2** a person or animal not expected to win a race or competition: *The woman who actually got the job was a rank* (=complete) **outsider.**

out-size /ˈaʊtsaɪz/ *adj* (esp. of clothing) larger than the standard sizes

out-skirts /ˈaʊtskɜːts||-ɜːr-/ *n* [P (of)] the outer areas or limits: *on the outskirts of Paris* | *He hovered shyly on the outskirts of the group.* — compare PERIPHERY (1)

out-smart /aʊtˈsmɑːt||-ɑːr-/ *v* [T] to defeat by behaving more cleverly; OUTWIT

out-spo-ken /aʊtˈspəʊkən/ *adj* not derog expressing openly what is thought or felt; FRANK — see also **speak out** — ~ **ly adv** — ~ **ness n** [U]

out-spread /ˌaʊtˈspred-/ *adj* spread out flat or to full width: *with arms/wings outspread*

out-stand-ing /aʊtˈstændɪŋ/ *adj* **1** much better than most others; very good: *an outstanding young musician* — see also **stand out** **2** not yet done, settled, or paid: *some problems/debts still outstanding* — ~ **ly adv**

out-stare /aʊtˈsteə/ *v* [T] to OUTFACE

out-stay /aʊtˈsteɪ/ *v* [T] to stay longer than (other people) — see also **outstay one's welcome** (WELCOME⁴)

out-stretched /ˌaʊtˈstretʃt-/ *adj* stretched out to full length: *She welcomed them with outstretched arms.*

out-strip /aʊt'strɪp/ *v* -pp- [T] **1** to pass in running **2** to do better than: *to outstrip our competitors in selling computers*

out-take /'ɒ. / *n* a piece of a film or television show that is removed before it is shown or broadcast, esp. because it contains a mistake

out-talk /aʊt'tɔːk/ *v* [T] to talk better or longer than

out-tray /'ɒ. / *n* a box used to hold work, letters, etc. which have been dealt with and are ready to be sent out or put away —compare IN TRAY

out-vote /aʊt'vəʊt/ *v* [T] to vote in larger numbers than; defeat by having a larger number of votes

out-ward /'aʊtwəd||-wərd/ *adj* [A] **1** going away: *the outward voyage* | *an outward bound* (=going away) *ship* —opposite **homeward** or **return** **2** on the outside, though perhaps not really true: *outward cheerfulness* | *To all outward appearances* (=as things seem), *she's happy*. —compare **inward** —*~ly adv*: *outwardly happy*

Outward Bound /ɒ. 'ɒ. / (a course run by) an organization which teaches school children or adults how to SURVIVE in difficult country or situations and tries to build character

out-wards /'aʊtwədz||-wərdz/ also **outward** *AmE— adv* away from the centre; towards the outside: *This door opens outwards*. | *Fold the petals outwards*. —opposite **inwards**

out-weigh /aʊt'weɪ/ *v* [T] *fml* to be more important than: *In this case the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages*.

out-wit /aʊt'wɪt/ *v* -tt- [T] to defeat by behaving more cleverly

out-with /,aʊt'wɪθ-/ *prep* *ScotE* outside of: *Outwith normal working hours, please contact me at home*.

out-work /'aʊtwɜːk||-wɜːrk/ *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*] a militarily strong position at some distance from a larger one **2** [U] work for a business that is done outside the usual place of business, esp. by people at home; many types of out-work are very poorly paid —*~er n*

out-worn /,aʊt'wɔːn-||-'wɔːrn-/ *adj* (of an idea, custom, etc.) no longer useful or used; OUTMODED: *an outworn social system* —compare **WORN-OUT**

ou-zo /'uːzəʊ/ *n* [U] a Greek alcoholic drink, drunk with water —compare **PERNOD**

o-va /'əʊvə/ *pl. of* OVUM

o-val /'əʊvəl/ *n, adj* (anything which is) egg-shaped: *an oval face*

Oval [the] a famous cricket ground in S London, one of the largest in England and the home of the Surrey County cricket club. The last game of a test match SERIES is usu. played there.

Oval Of-fice /ɒ. 'ɒ. / [the] the office of the US president, in the White House, Washington, D.C.: *We're awaiting a decision from the Oval Office*.

O-val-tine /'əʊvəltiːn/ *n tdmk* **1** [U] a sweet brown powder containing COCOA, MALT, and dried milk, used in drinks **2** [C;U] (a cupful of) a drink made from hot water mixed with this powder, usu. with milk added afterwards. It is usu. drunk before going to bed at night.

o-var-i-an /əʊ'veəriən/ *adj* of an ovary

o-va-ry /'əʊvəri/ *n* **1** the part of a female that produces eggs **2** the part of a female plant that produces seeds —see picture at **FLOWER**

o-va-tion /əʊ'veɪʃən/ *n* a joyful expression of public approval, esp. by means of APPLAUSE: *The crowd gave him a standing ovation*.

ov-en /'ʌvən/ *n* **1** a closed box used for cooking, baking clay, etc.: *Cook the meat in a slow* (=not very hot) *oven for two hours*. —see **COOK** (USAGE), and see picture at **KITCHEN** **2 like an oven infml** uncomfortably hot: *It's like an oven in here; open the window!* —see also **DUTCH OVEN**, **have a bun in the oven** (**BUN**)

ov-en-proof /'ʌvənpruːf/ *adj* (of dishes, plates, etc.) made to be unharmed by the heat inside an oven, so that food can be cooked on them

oven-read-y /ɒ. 'ɒ. / *adj* (of food) already prepared to be cooked in an oven: *oven-ready chickens* | *our new range of oven-ready frozen meals*

ov-en-ware /'ʌvənweə/ *n* [U] cooking pots that can be put in a hot oven without cracking

o-ver /'əʊvə/ *prep* **1** directly above; higher than, but not touching: *The lamp hung over/above the table*. | *The doctor leaned over the sick child*. —opposite **under**; see **ABOVE** (USAGE), **ACROSS** (USAGE), **UNDER** (USAGE) **2** so as to cover; resting on top of: *He put the newspaper over his face*. —opposite **under** **3** from side to side of, esp. by going up and then down again: *to jump over the wall/the ditch* | *If we can't go over the mountain we must go round it*. | *The car ran over a dog and killed it*. | *a bridge over/across the river* | *The ball rolled over/across the grass*. **4** down across the edge of: *to fall over a cliff* **5** on the far side of: *They live (just) over/across the street*. | (fig.) *We're over* (=past) *the worst of our troubles now*. **6** in many parts of; everywhere in: *They travelled (all) over Europe*. **7** commanding; in control of: *He ruled over a large kingdom*. | *I don't want anyone over me, telling me what to do*. —opposite **under** **8** more than; above: *over 30 books* | *over ten years ago* | *children over* (=older than) *seven* | *over the legal limit* —opposite **under** **9** during; through (a period): *Will you be at home over Christmas?* | *Over the years he's become lazier and lazier*. **10** while doing, eating, etc.: *to hold a meeting over dinner* | *relaxing over a glass of wine* | *He's taking a long time over it*. (=in doing it) **11** by means of; using: *I don't want to say it over the telephone*. | *I heard it over the radio*. **12** in connection with: *problems over his income tax* **13 over and above** as well as; besides: *Over and above his teaching duties, he is the chairman of two committees*.

over² *adv* **1** downwards from an upright position: *He pushed me and I fell over*. **2** across an edge, a distance, or an open space: *The milk's boiling over!* | *We flew over to the US*. (=across the Atlantic) | *Come and sit over here*. (=on this side of the room) | *Come over* (=to our house) *and see us later*. **3** from one person or group to another: *Hand it over!* | *He signed over the money to his son*. **4** so as to be in each other's positions: *Let's change these two pictures over*. **5** so that another side is shown: *Turn the page over*. | *dogs rolling over and over on the grass* **6** beyond a quantity or limit: *children of seven and over* (=older) | *The programme ran two minutes over*. (=beyond the time limit) —opposite **under** **7** (in comb.) (before an adjective or adverb) too much; too: *Don't be over-anxious about it*. | *Rather over-enthusiastically, he tried to do it all himself*. **8** remaining; not used when part has been taken: *Was there any money over?* | *three into seven goes twice and one over* **9** so as to be covered and not seen: *Let's paint it over in green*. | *The windows are boarded over*. **10** completely through from beginning to end: *You'd better read/think/talk it over carefully*. **11** (showing that something is repeated): *I've told him over and over*. | *I made so many mistakes that I had to do it (all) over again*. (=once more) **12 AmE** again: *My sums were wrong and I had to do them over*. **13 esp. AmE** during or beyond a certain period: *Don't leave now; why not stay/stop over until Monday?* **14 Over!** also **Over to you!**— (in radio signalling) *You speak now!* **15 over against** rare compared to

over³ *adj* [F (with)] **1** (of an event or period of time) finished; ended: *I'm sorry, the party's over; they've all gone home*. | *Let's do it now and get it over (with)*. **2 over and done with infml** (of an unpleasant event) completely finished: *Thank goodness the exams are over and done with!*

over⁴ *n* (in cricket) a set of six or eight balls in the same direction from one **BOWLER**

over- see **WORD FORMATION**

over-a-chiev-er /,əʊvərə'tʃiːvə/ *n* **1** a person who works hard for success and becomes very unhappy if they do not achieve everything they want to **2** a person who performs better than expected in an examination etc. —compare **UNDERACHIEVE**

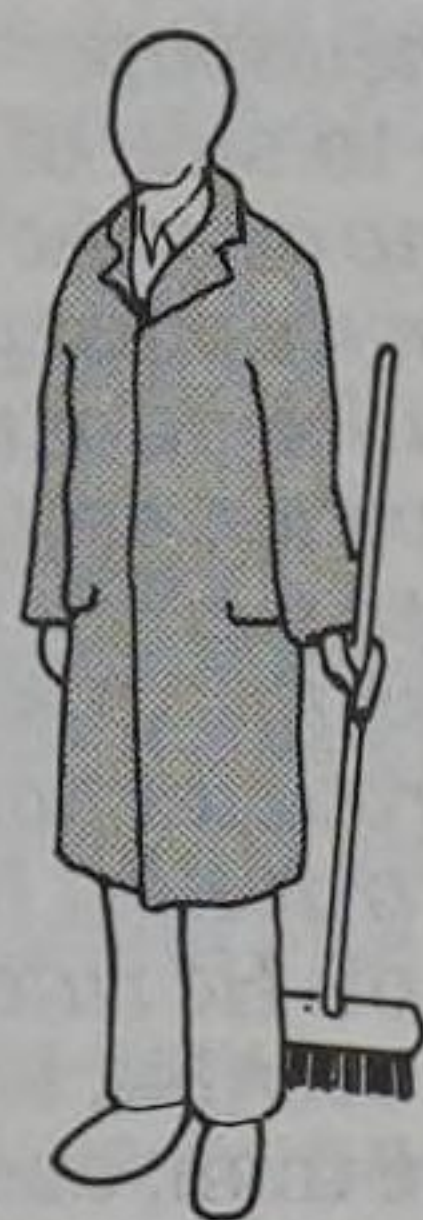
o-ver-act /,əʊvər'ækt/ *v* [I;T] to act (a part in a play) in a way that goes beyond what is natural

o-ver-age /,əʊvər'eɪdʒ-/ *adj* too old for some purpose: *The army wouldn't have him because he was overage*. —opposite **underage**

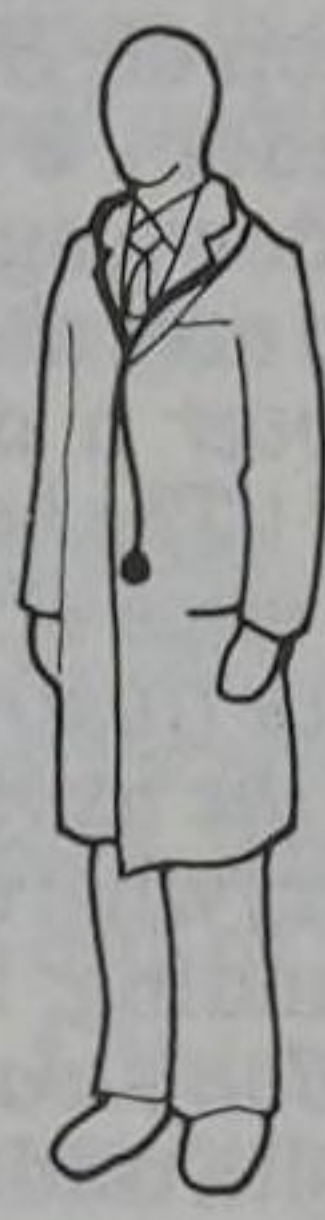
o-ver-all /,əʊvər'ɔːl-/ *adj, adv* **1** including everything: *My overall impression of his work is good*. | *The fish measured 1.7 metres overall*. | *What will it cost overall?* **2** on

the whole; generally: *Overall, prices are still rising.* **3**
of or for overalls: *my overall pockets*

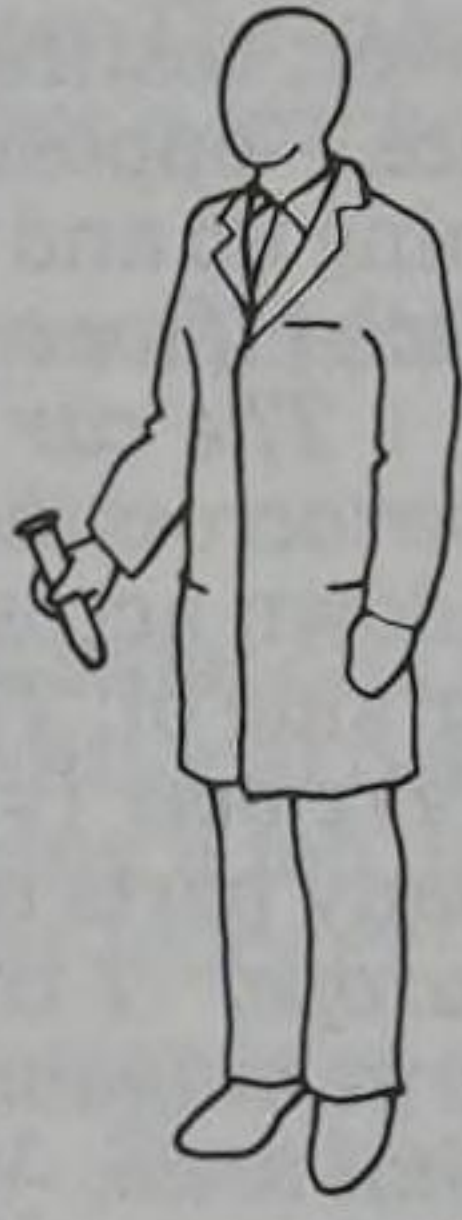
overalls



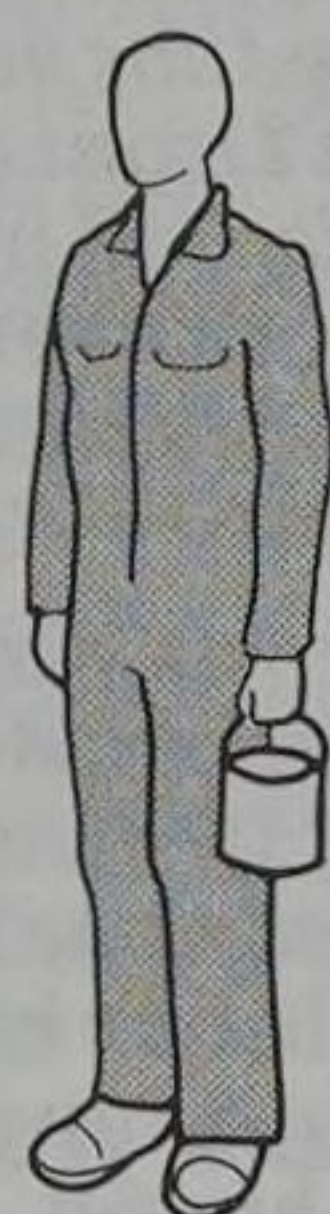
an overall BrE/
a work coat AmE



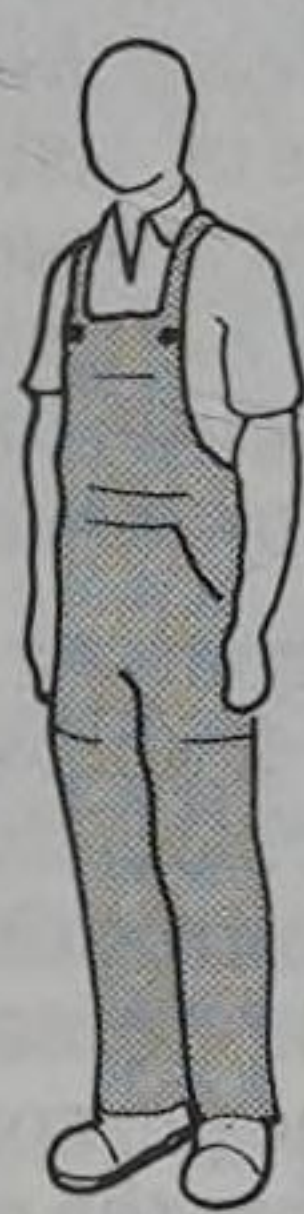
a white coat



a lab coat



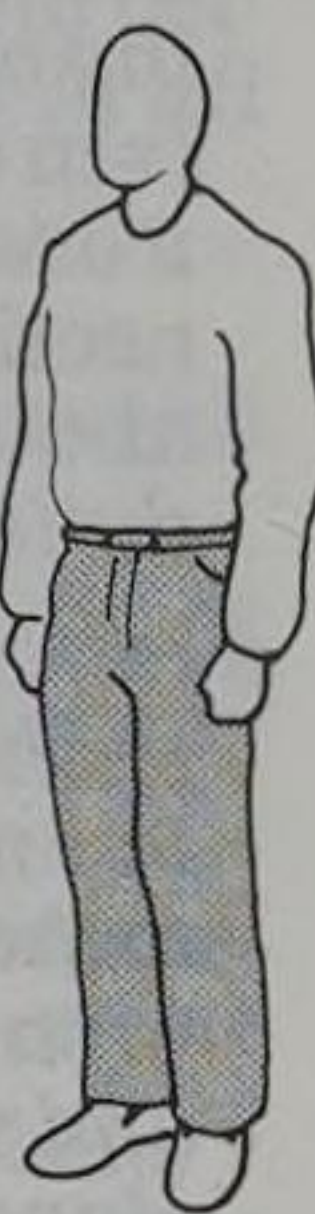
overalls or a
boiler suit BrE/
an overall AmE



dungarees BrE/
overalls AmE



jeans BrE/
dungarees
AmE



jeans

o-ver-all² /'əʊvə:ɪl/ *n* BrE || **work coat** AmE— a loose-fitting coat-like garment worn over other clothes to protect them

o-ver-alls /'əʊvə:ɪlz/ *n* [P] **1** BrE || **jump suit** AmE— a garment made in one piece to cover the whole body, worn esp. by workers over other clothes to protect them — compare BOILER SUIT, DUNGAREES **2** AmE for DUNGAREES —see PAIR (USAGE)

o-ver-arch /,əʊvər'ɑ:tʃ/ || -'ɑ:rtʃ/ *v* [I;T] esp. lit to form an arch (over)

o-ver-arm /'əʊvərə:m/ || -ɑ:rm/ also **overhand**— *adj, adv* (in sport) with the arm moving above the shoulder: *He bowled overarm.* | *an overarm throw* —opposite **underarm**

o-ver-awe /,əʊvər'ɔ:/ *v* [T] to make quiet because of respect and fear: *They were completely overawed by his powerful speech.*

o-ver-balance /,əʊvə'bæləns/ || -vər-/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) lose one's balance and fall over

o-ver-bear /,əʊvə'beər/ || -vər-/ *v* -**bore** /'bɔ:ɪ/ -**borne** /'bɔ:n/ || 'bɔ:rn/ [T usu. pass.] *fml* to force into obedience

o-ver-bear-ing /,əʊvə'beərɪŋ/ || -vər-/ *adj derog* frequently trying to tell other people what to do without regard for their ideas or feelings: *an overbearing manner/personality* — *~ly adv*

o-ver-bid /,əʊvə'bid/ || -vər-/ *v* -**bid**, *present participle* -**bidding** **1** [I (for)] (esp. in an AUCTION) to offer too high a price **2** [T] to offer more than **3** [I;T] (in the card game BRIDGE) to offer more than (the value of one's cards) — **overbid** /'əʊvə'bid/ || -vər-/ *n*

o-ver-blown /,əʊvə'bləʊn/ || -vər-/ *adj* using too many words and movements of the hands; PRETENTIOUS: *vastly overblown compliments*

o-ver-board /'əʊvə'bɔ:d/ || 'əʊvə'bɔ:rd/ *adv* **1** over the side of a ship or boat into the water: *He fell overboard and drowned.* | *Man overboard!* **2** **go overboard for/about** *infml* to become extremely keen on (someone or something): *She's gone overboard about her new boyfriend.* **3** **throw overboard** *infml* to throw away as useless; REJECT

o-ver-book /,əʊvə'bʊk/ || -vər-/ *v* [I;T] to sell more places for (a theatre, holiday, etc.) than are available

o-ver-bur-den /,əʊvə'bɜ:dn/ || ,əʊvər'bɜ:rdn/ *v* [T (with)] to make (someone or something) carry or do too much: *overburdened students/vehicles*

o-ver-came /,əʊvə'keɪm/ || -vər/ *v past tense* of OVERCOME

o-ver-cap-i-tal-ize also -**ise** BrE /,əʊvə'kæpɪtəlaɪz/ || -vər-/ *v* [I;T] **1** to supply too much money for (a business) — opposite **undercapitalize** **2** to put too high a value on (a business) — **-ization** /,əʊvə'kæpɪtəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/ || -vər'kæpɪtəle-/ *n*

o-ver-cast /,əʊvə'kɑ:st/ || ,əʊvər'kæst/ *adj* dark with clouds: *an overcast sky/day*

o-ver-charge /,əʊvə'tʃɑ:dʒ/ || ,əʊvər'tʃɑ:rdʒ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to charge too much: *They overcharged for the wine.* | *They overcharged me (by 25p).* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *They overcharged me 25p.* —opposite **undercharge** **2** [T (with)] to fill or load too much: *to overcharge the electrical apparatus* | (fig.) *overcharged with feeling* — **overcharge** /'əʊvətʃɑ:dʒ/ || -vər'tʃɑ:rdʒ/ *n*

o-ver-cloud /,əʊvə'klaʊd/ || -vər-/ *v* [T] **1** [usu. pass.] to cover with clouds **2** to fill with sadness or worry

o-ver-coat /'əʊvəkəʊt/ || -vər-/ *n* a long warm coat worn over other clothes in cold weather

o-ver-come /,əʊvə'kʌm/ || -vər-/ *v* -**came** /'keɪm/, -**come** /'kʌm/ **1** [I;T] to fight successfully (against); defeat: *to overcome the enemy/one's fear/difficulties* **2** [T usu. pass.] to make helpless; defeat, esp. by smoke or FUMES, or by feelings: *She was overcome by the smoke/overcome with emotion.*

o-ver-com-pen-sate /,əʊvə'kɒmpənsət/, -pen- || -vər'kɑ:m/ *v* [I (for)] to try to correct one's weaknesses by taking too strong an action in the opposite direction: *She overcompensated for her shyness by talking too much.* — **-sation** /,əʊvə'kɒmpən'seɪʃən/, -pen- || -vər'kɑ:m-/ *n* [U]

o-ver-crop /,əʊvə'krɒp/ || ,əʊvər'krɑ:p/ *v* -**pp**- [T] *tech* to spoil (farmland) by growing too many crops

o-ver-crowd /,əʊvə'kraʊd/ || -vər-/ *v* [T (with)] to put or allow too many people or things in (one place): *an overcrowded room*

o-ver-crowd-ing /,əʊvə'kraʊdɪŋ/ || -vər-/ *n* [U] the condition of living too close together, with too many people or animals in too few rooms, houses, or buildings: *overcrowding is a major cause of stress in families* | *overcrowding encourages the spread of disease in farm animals*

o-ver-de-vel-op /,əʊvədɪ'veləp/ || -vər-/ *v* [T] to develop too much: *overdeveloped films* | *an overdeveloped sense of his own importance*

o-ver-do /,əʊvə'du:/ || -vər-/ *v* -**did** /'dɪd/, -**done** /'dʌn/ [T] **1** [often pass.] to do, decorate, perform, etc., too much: *The love scenes in the film were a bit overdone.* | *I've been rather overdoing it* (=working too much) *lately.* **2** to use too much: *Don't overdo the salt.*

o-ver-done /,əʊvədʌn/ || -vər-/ *adj* cooked too much — opposite **underdone**

o-ver-dose /'əʊvədəʊs/ || -vər-/ *n* too much of a drug: *He took a massive overdose of heroin and died.* — **overdose** /,əʊvədʌʊs/ || -vər-/ *v* [I (on)]

o-ver-draft /'əʊvədɹɑ:ft/ || 'əʊvədɹæft/ *n* the sum owed to a bank by a person who has overdrawn: *We are paying off a large overdraft.*

overdraft fa-cil-i-ty /'... .. / *n* an agreement with the bank that the customer may overdraw by a fixed amount, at an agreed rate of interest, usu. with no PENALTY (=charge made for overdrawing). The customer does not have to borrow all the money that they are allowed to.

o-ver-draw /,əʊvə'drɔ:/ || -vər-/ *v* -**drew** /'dru:/, -**drawn** /'drɔ:n/ [I;T] to take more money from one's bank account than it contains: *I'm/My account is £300 overdrawn.* | *overdrawn by £300*

o-ver-dress /,əʊvə'dres/ || -vər-/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) dress in clothes that are too formal — **overdressed** *adj*: *I felt distinctly overdressed—everyone else was in jeans.*

o-ver-drive /'əʊvədraɪv/ || -vər-/ *n* [U] a GEAR that allows a car to go fast while its engine produces the least power necessary: (fig.) *His imagination is in overdrive.* (=working very hard)

o-ver-due /,əʊvə'dju:/ || ,əʊvər'du:/ *adj* **1** left unpaid too long: *an overdue gas bill* **2** later than expected: *Her baby*

is overdue. [after *n*] *The train is 15 minutes overdue.* **3** [F+for] having been in need (of something) for some time: *The car is overdue for a service.* **4** (of a library book, etc.) not returned to the library by the date expected: *These books are two weeks overdue.* | *A charge of 3 c per day is made on all overdue books.*

over easy /,əʊvə'ɪ/ *adj, adv* AmE (of eggs) cooked in hot fat and turned over to cook on the other side only for a moment: *Two eggs over easy, please.* —compare **SUNNY-SIDE UP**

over-egg /,əʊvə'reg/ *v* **overegg the pudding** BrE *infml* to make something too complicated or **ELABORATE** by adding something that is not needed: *We sent her a birthday card and some flowers; to send champagne as well would just be overegging the pudding.*

over-es-ti-mate¹ /,əʊvə'restɪmeɪt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to guess too high a value for (an amount): *We overestimated the bill.* **2** [T] to have too high an opinion of: *I think you're overestimating his abilities.* —opposite **underestimate**

over-es-ti-mate² /,əʊvə'restɪmət/ *n* an **ESTIMATE** which is too large

over-ex-pose /,əʊvə'ɪksəʊz/ *v* [T] to give too much light to (a film or photograph) —opposite **underexpose**

over-flow¹ /,əʊvə'fləʊ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to flow over the edges (of): *The river overflowed (its banks).* | *The bath is overflowing; who left the water running?* **2** [I;T (into)] to go beyond the limits (of): *The crowd overflowed (the theatre) into the street.* **3** [I (with)] to be very full: *His heart overflowed with gratitude.*

over-flow² /,əʊvə'fləʊ/ *n* **1** something that overflows: *The water butt catches the overflow from this pipe.* **2** a pipe or passage for carrying away water that is more than is needed **3** an act of overflowing

over-fly /,əʊvə'flaɪ/ *v* **-flew** /'fluː/, **-flown** /'fləʊn/ [T] (of a pilot or aircraft) to fly over (a place), esp. in a group on a ceremonial occasion

over-grown /,əʊvə'grəʊn/ *adj* **1** [(with)] covered esp. with plants growing uncontrolled: *a garden overgrown with weeds* **2** [A] *derog* grown too large: *He's just like an overgrown schoolboy.*

over-hand /'əʊvə'hænd/ *adj, adv* **OVERARM**

over-hang¹ /,əʊvə'hæŋ/ *v* **-hung** /'hʌŋ/ [I;T] to hang over (something) or stick out over (something): *The rock overhung the path.* | *overhanging cliffs*

over-hang² /'əʊvə'hæŋ/ *n* [usu. sing.] **1** a rock, roof, etc., that overhangs **2** the amount by which something overhangs

over-haul¹ /,əʊvə'hɔːl/ *v* [T] **1** to examine thoroughly and perhaps repair if necessary: *to overhaul a car* **2** to come up to from behind and pass; **OVERTAKE**

over-haul² /'əʊvə'hɔːl/ *n* a thorough examination and repair if necessary: *I gave the van a complete overhaul.*

over-head /,əʊvə'hed/ *adj, adv* above one's head: *electricity carried by overhead wires* (=not underground) | *A plane flew overhead.* —compare **over someone's head** (**HEAD**¹ (42))

overhead pro-jector /,əʊvə'hɛd'prɒdʒektər/ *n* a lamp which makes images on a flat transparent surface larger and throws them, by means of a mirror, onto a white wall or **SCREEN**

over-heads /'əʊvə'hedz/ *v* [P] BrE || **overhead** [U] AmE— *n* money spent regularly (e.g. on insurance or heating) to keep a business running: *Their office is in central London, so their overheads are very high.* —compare **PRIME COST**

over-hear /,əʊvə'hɪə/ *v* **-heard** /'hɜːd/ *v* [T] to hear (what others are saying) without their knowledge and by accident: *I overheard some cruel remarks about my husband.* [+obj+to-v/u-ing] *I overheard them say/saying they were dissatisfied.* —compare **EAVESDROP**

over-heat-ed /,əʊvə'hɪtɪd/ *adj* **1** at too high a temperature **2** (of e.g. economic conditions) showing too much activity to be healthy

over-hung /,əʊvə'hʌŋ/ *v* **-v** *past tense & participle of* **OVERHANG**¹

over-in-dulge /,əʊvə'ɪndʌldʒ/ *v* [I (in);T] to let (oneself or another person) have too much of what is wanted: *to overindulge in chocolates/television* (=to eat too many/watch too much) | *She overindulges her children.* —**dulgence** *n* [U] : suffering from last night's overindulgence

over-joyed /,əʊvə'dʒɔɪd/ *adj* [F] extremely pleased;

full of joy: [+to-v/that] *We were overjoyed (to hear) that they were safe.*

o-ver-kill /'əʊvəkɪl/ *v* **-v** *past tense & participle of* **OVERKILL** **1** more than enough (esp. atomic) weapons to kill everyone in a country **2** something that goes beyond the desirable or safe limits: *a propaganda overkill that stops people from believing it*

o-ver-la-den /,əʊvə'leɪdn/ *v* **-v** *past participle of* **OVERLOAD**

o-ver-laid /,əʊvə'leɪd/ *v* **-v** *past tense & participle of* **OVERLAY**¹

o-ver-land /,əʊvə'lænd/ *adj, adv* across land, not by sea or air: *an overland route* | *going overland to China*

o-ver-lap¹ /,əʊvə'læp/ *v* **-pp** [I;T] to cover (something) partly and go beyond it: *Roofs are often made with overlapping tiles.* | (fig.) *Economics and politics are best studied together as the two subjects overlap.*

overlap² /'əʊvələp/ *n* [C;U] the amount by which two or more things overlap each other

o-ver-lay¹ /,əʊvə'leɪ/ *v* **-laid** /'leɪd/ [T (with) usu. pass.] to cover usu. thinly: *wood overlaid with silver*

o-ver-lay² /'əʊvələɪ/ *n* something laid over something else: (fig.) *sad stories with an overlay of humour*

o-ver-leaf /,əʊvə'li:f/ *adv* on the other side of the page

o-ver-lie /,əʊvə'laɪ/ *v* **-lay** /'leɪ/, **-lain** /'leɪn/ [T] *tech* **1** to lie over: *The rock overlies the coal.* **2** to cause the death of (a baby or young animal) by lying on it

o-ver-load /,əʊvə'ləʊd/ *v* **-loaded, -loaded or -laden** /'leɪdn/ [T (with)] **1** to load too heavily **2** to put too much electricity through: *Don't overload the electrical system by using too many machines.* —**overload** /'əʊvə'ləʊd/ *n*

o-ver-long /,əʊvə'lɒŋ/ *adj, adv* too long, esp. in time: *The performance was overlong.*

o-ver-look /,əʊvə'lʊk/ *v* [T] **1** to have or give a view of from above: *Our room/We overlooked the sea.* | *We're overlooked here.* (=the neighbours can see into our house) **2** not to notice; miss: *These little details are easily overlooked.* **3** to pretend not to see; forgive: *I'll overlook your mistake this time.*

o-ver-lord /'əʊvələːd/ *n* (in former times) a lord who ruled over other lords; highest ruler

o-ver-ly /'əʊvəli/ *adv* (usu. in negatives) too; very much: *I'm not overly interested.*

o-ver-manned /,əʊvə'mænd/ *adj* having more workers than are needed for a job, etc.; **OVERSTAFFED** —opposite **undermanned** —**manning** *n* [U]

o-ver-mas-ter /,əʊvə'mɑːstər/ *v* [T] *fml* to defeat (a feeling or a person) by greater power

o-ver-much /,əʊvə'mʌtʃ/ *adv, determiner, pron* **1** *fml* too much: *overmuch work* **2** (usu. in negatives) very much: *He doesn't like me overmuch.*

o-ver-night /,əʊvə'nait/ *adj, adv* **1** for or during the night: *an overnight journey* | *an overnight bag* | *to stay overnight* **2** sudden(ly): *The actor became famous overnight.* | *an overnight success*

over-op-ti-mis-tic /,əʊvə'ɒptɪstɪk/ *adj* foolishly or unreasonably **OPTIMISTIC**, expecting that things will be better than is actually possible or likely: *His estimate that they could do the job twice as quickly as the previous firm did, seems rather over-optimistic.* | *Maybe you will get paid as quickly as you think, but don't be over-optimistic.*

o-ver-pass /'əʊvəpɑːs/ *n* AmE for **FLYOVER**

o-ver-pay /,əʊvə'peɪ/ *v* **-paid** /'peɪd/ [T] to pay (someone) too much —opposite **underpay**

o-ver-play /,əʊvə'pleɪ/ *v* [T] **1** to make (something) appear more important than it really is —opposite **underplay** **2** **overplay one's hand** to promise or try to do more than one can really do

o-ver-pop-u-lat-ed /,əʊvə'pɒpjʊleɪtɪd/ *adj* (of a city, etc.) having too many people —**ion** /,əʊvə'pɒpjʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* [U]

o-ver-pow-er /,əʊvə'paʊər/ *v* [T] **1** to defeat (someone) by greater power **2** (of feelings) to make helpless; **OVERCOME**

o-ver-pow-er-ing /,əʊvə'paʊərɪŋ/ *adj* **1** very strong; **INTENSE**: *an overpowering desire/smell* **2** (of a person) having a character that is too forceful; **OVERBEARING** —**ly** *adv*

o-ver-proof /,əʊvə'pru:f||-vər-/ *adj* containing more alcohol than PROOF SPIRIT does: [after *n*] *10 degrees overproof*

o-ver-ran /,əʊvə'ræn/ *n* *past tense of* OVERRUN

o-ver-rate /,əʊvə'reɪt/ *v* [T] to put too high a value on (quality, ability, etc.): *I think that film is overrated.* | *an over-rated pleasure* —opposite **underrate**

o-ver-reach /,əʊvə'rɪtʃ/ *v* [T] to defeat (oneself) by trying to do or get too much

o-ver-re-act /,əʊvəri'ækt/ *v* [I (to)] to act too strongly as a result of (something): *She tends to overreact to criticism.* — **~ion** /'ækʃən/ *n* [C;U]

o-ver-ride /,əʊvə'raɪd/ *v* -**rode** /'rəʊd/ -**ridden** /'rɪdn/ [T] to take no notice of (another person's orders, claims, etc.): *He overrode their objections.*

o-ver-rid-ing /,əʊvə'raɪdɪŋ-/ *adj* [A] more important than anything else: *a question of overriding importance*

o-ver-rule /,əʊvə'rul/ *v* [T] to decide against (something already decided) by official power: *The boss overruled me/my decision.*

o-ver-run /,əʊvə'ɾʌn/ *v* -**ran** /'ræn/, -**run** 1 [T] (of something unwanted) to spread over in great numbers: *The stables are overrun with rats.* 2 [I;T] to continue beyond (a time limit or a previously decided stopping place): *Sorry I'm late; the meeting overran.*

o-ver-seas /,əʊvə'si:z-/||-vər-/ *adj, adv* to, at, or in somewhere across the sea; foreign: *overseas markets* | *They've gone to live overseas.*

▷ **USAGE 1 Overseas students**||**foreign students** have come to one's own country from abroad in order to study; the same idea is expressed by *students from overseas*. But *students overseas* are people studying in other countries. 2 Compare **overseas** and **foreign**. **Overseas** as an adjective can only be used before a noun, and, in British English, is slightly more polite than **foreign**: *You're foreign, aren't you?* | *You're one of our foreign/overseas students, aren't you?* ◀

Overseas De-vel-op-ment Ad-min-is-tra-tion /,... -'l... -'.../ *abbrev. ODA* [the] a British government department which controls financial and technical help for developing countries (=poor countries that are trying to build up their industry)

o-ver-see /,əʊvə'si:z||-vər-/ *v* -**saw** /'sɔ:z/, -**seen** /'si:n/ [T] to watch to see that work is properly done: *to oversee the work/the workers* —**seer** /'əʊvəsiə/||-vər-/ *n*

o-ver-sell /,əʊvə'sel||-vər-/ *v* -**sold** /'səʊld/ [T] *infml* to praise too much

o-ver-sexed /,əʊvə'sekst-/||-vər-/ *adj* having unusually strong sexual desire —opposite **undersexed**

o-ver-shad-ow /,əʊvə'ʃædəʊ||-vər-/ *v* [T] 1 to throw a shadow over: (fig.) *The threat of war overshadowed the nation.* (=made it worried and unhappy) 2 to make appear less important: *Her new book will overshadow all her earlier ones.*

o-ver-shoe /'əʊvəʃu:z||-vər-/ *n* a rubber shoe worn over an ordinary shoe; GALOSH —see PAIR (USAGE)

o-ver-shoot /,əʊvə'ʃu:t||-vər-/ *v* -**shot** /'ʃɒt||'ʃa:t/ [I;T] to go or shoot too far or beyond, and miss: *The train overshot the station.*

o-ver-side /,əʊvə'saɪd-/||-vər-/ *adv* AmE over the side of a ship into the water

o-ver-sight /'əʊvəsait||-vər-/ *n* 1 [C;U] (an) unintended failure to notice or do something: *The mistake was the result of (an) oversight.* 2 [S;U] *fml* watchfulness

o-ver-sim-ple-fy /,əʊvə'sɪmplɪfaɪ||-vər-/ *v* [I;T] to express (something) too simply —**~fication** /,əʊvə,sɪmplɪfɪ-'keɪʃən||-vər-/ *n* [C;U]

over-six-ties /,... -'.../ [the+P] people who are over 60 years old: *moderately-paced cycling holidays for the over-sixties* | *an over-sixties club*

o-ver-sized /,əʊvə'saɪzd-/||-vər-/ also **o-ver-size** /-'saɪz-/||- *adj* bigger than usual; too big: *oversized ears*

o-ver-sleep /,əʊvə'sli:p||-vər-/ *v* -**slept** /'slept/ [I] to sleep longer than one intended: *I overslept this morning and was late for work.* —compare SLEEP in

o-ver-spill /'əʊvə'spɪl||-vər-/ *n* [usu. sing.] esp. BrE people who leave a city because too many people live there, and settle on the edges or beyond: *A new town was built for London's overspill.*

o-ver-staffed /,əʊvə'staɪft-/ || ,əʊvər'stæft-/ *adj* having more workers than are needed; OVERRMANNED —opposite **understaffed**

o-ver-state /,əʊvə'steɪt||-vər-/ *v* [T] to state too strongly, making things appear better, worse, or more important than they really are: *She overstated her case, so we didn't believe her.* —opposite **understate** — **~ment** *n* [C;U]

o-ver-stay /,əʊvə'steɪ||-vər-/ *v* [T] to stay beyond the end of (a period of time) —see also **overstay one's welcome** (WELCOME⁴)

o-ver-step /,əʊvə'step||-vər-/ *v* -**pp** [T] to go beyond (a limit of what is wise or proper): *to overstep the limits/boundaries of good taste* | *She overstepped her authority.* | *I've been very patient so far, but he's really overstepped the mark this time!*

o-ver-stock /,əʊvə'stɒk||,əʊvər'stɔ:k/ *v* [I;T (with)] to keep more supplies than are needed in (a place): *We'd overstocked (the shop) with copies of an unpopular textbook.*

o-ver-strung /,əʊvə'strʌŋ||-vər-/ *adj* too sensitive and nervous; HIGHLY-STRUNG

o-ver-sub-scribed /,əʊvəsəb'skraɪbd||-vər-/ *adj* with more wanted than is on sale: *This play is very popular; seats in the theatre are oversubscribed.* —opposite **under-subscribed**

o-vert /'əʊvɜ:t, əʊ'vɜ:t||-vɜ:t/ *adj fml* (of beliefs or actions) public; not secret: *overt moves to undermine his authority* —opposite **covert** — **~ly** *adv*

o-ver-take /,əʊvə'teɪk||-vər-/ *v* -**took** /'tʊk/, -**taken** /'teɪkən/ 1 [I;T] to come up to from behind, and pass: *Don't overtake on a corner.* | *We overtook the slow lorry.* | *Smith has overtaken Jones's record.* 2 [T] (of something unpleasant) to reach suddenly and unexpectedly: *overtaken by misfortune*

o-ver-tax /,əʊvə'tæks||-vər-/ *v* [T] 1 **a** to put too great a tax on (goods) **b** to demand too much tax from (people) 2 to force beyond a limit: *Don't overtax your strength/yourself!*

over-the-coun-ter /,... -'...-/ *adj* 1 AmE also **OTC**— (of certain business shares) not LISTED on an official STOCK EXCHANGE list: *over-the-counter securities* 2 (of a drug) available without a doctor's PRESCRIPTION

over the top /,... -'.../ also **OTT**— *adj* BrE extreme or exaggerated (EXAGGERATE): *That's a bit over the top, isn't it?* | *He's right-wing, but I wouldn't call him a fascist.* | *Just look at her hat—all those feathers! Completely OTT!*

over-the-tran-som /,... -'...-/ *adj* AmE received without having been asked for: *the company often gets over-the-transom manuscripts from unpublished writers.*

o-ver-throw 1 /,əʊvə'θrəʊ||-vər-/ *v* -**threw** /'θru:/, -**thrown** /'θrəʊn/ [T] to defeat, esp. using force; remove from a position of power: *Rebels have overthrown the government.*

o-ver-throw 2 /'əʊvəθrəʊ||-vər-/ *n* 1 [usu. sing.] defeat; removal from power: *the violent overthrow of the government* 2 (in cricket) a poor return of the ball from a FIELDER that allows further runs to be scored (SCORE)

o-ver-time /'əʊvətəɪm||-vər-/ *n, adv* [U] 1 (time) beyond the usual time, esp. working time: *They're working overtime to finish the job.* | *He's on overtime tonight.* 2 payment for working more than the usual time. The amount people are paid for each hour of overtime is usu. much more than they are paid for working their usual hours: *to pay/earn overtime* 3 AmE time added to the end of a game (of football, etc.) when time has been lost during the game, e.g. because a player was hurt, or when the points total of the teams are level at the end of ordinary time

o-ver-tone /'əʊvətəʊn||-vər-/ *n* *tech* 1 a musical note higher than a main note and sounding together with it 2 a colour that one thinks one can see when looking at another colour

o-ver-tones /'əʊvətəʊnz||-vər-/ *n* [P (of)] things that are suggested but not shown or stated clearly: *His words were polite, but there were overtones of anger in his voice.* —compare UNDERTONE (2)

o-ver-took /,əʊvə'tʊk || -vər-/ *v* *past tense of* OVERTAKE

o-ver-top /,əʊvə'tɒp||,əʊvər'ta:p/ *v* -**pp** [T] *fml* to be higher or better than

o-ver-ture /'əʊvətʃʊə, -tʃʊə, -tʃə/||-vər-/ *n* 1 a musical introduction to a long musical piece, esp. an OPERA 2 a

short musical piece for playing at the beginning of a concert

o-ver-tures /'əʊvətʃuəz, -tʃuəz, -tʃəz/ || 'əʊvətʃuərz, -tʃuərz, -tʃərz/ *n* [P] an offer to begin talks with someone in the hope of reaching an agreement: *Their government is making overtures for/of peace.*

o-ver-turn /,əʊvə'tɜːn/ || ,əʊvə'tɜːrn/ *v* 1 [I;T] to (cause to) turn over: *The boat overturned.* | *They overturned the boat/lamp.* CAPSIZE 2 [T] to bring (esp. a government) to an end suddenly 3 to decide that (an original result, etc.) was wrong: *The judges overturned the decision of the lower court.*

o-ver-view /'əʊvəvjuː/ || -vər-/ *n* 1 a usu. short account (of something) which gives a general picture but no details; SUMMARY: *The managing director gave us an overview of the company's marketing plans for the coming year.* 2 an examination of something, e.g. a company system or plan, that does not go into detail but considers it as a whole: *We need someone to take an overview and plan the company's long-term strategy.*

o-ver-ween-ing /,əʊvə'wiːnɪŋ/ || -vər-/ *adj* *fml* *derog* too proud and too sure of oneself: *overweening pride* — ~ly *adv*

o-ver-weight /,əʊvə'weɪt/ || -vər-/ *adj* weighing more than is expected or usual: *This parcel is overweight by two kilos.* [after *n*] *He's two kilos overweight.* | *an overweight person* —opposite **underweight**; see **FAT** (USAGE)

o-ver-whelm /,əʊvə'welɪn/ || -vər-/ *v* [T] 1 to defeat or make powerless (usu. a group of people) by much greater force of numbers: *to overwhelm the opposing army* 2 [often *pass.*] (of feelings) to make (someone) completely helpless, usu. suddenly: *to be overwhelmed by grief* 3 (of water) to cover completely and usu. suddenly

o-ver-whelm-ing /,əʊvə'welɪnɪŋ/ || -vər-/ *adj* very large; too great to oppose: *overwhelming generosity* | *An overwhelming majority voted against the proposal.* — ~ly *adv*

o-ver-win-ter /,əʊvə'wɪntə/ || -vər-/ *v* [I] (usu. of plants) to live through the winter: *This variety of spinach will overwinter if it is well mulched.*

o-ver-work ¹ /,əʊvə'wɜːk/ || ,əʊvə'wɜːrk/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) work too much

overwork ² *n* [U] too much work; working too hard

o-ver-wrought /,əʊvə'rɔːt/ || *adj* too nervous and excited at the moment, esp. because of anxiety —compare **WROUGHT-UP**

O-vett /əʊ'vet/, **Steve** /stɪv/ (1955–) a British MIDDLE-DISTANCE runner who has broken several world records and won Olympic and other titles

Ov-id /'ɒvɪd/ || 'aɪv-/ (43 BC–17? AD) a Latin poet whose Roman name was **Publius Ovidius Naso**, famous for the *Metamorphoses*, a set of poems telling ancient stories (MYTHS)

o-vip-a-rous /əʊ'vɪpərəs/ *adj* *tech* egg-laying

o-void /'əʊvɔɪd/ *adj*, *n* *fml* or *tech* (an object that is) egg-shaped

ov-u-late /'ɒvjʊleɪt/ || 'aɪv-/ *v* [I] to produce eggs from the OVARY —**lation** /,ɒvjʊ'leɪʃən/ || ,aɪv-/ *n* [C;U]

o-vum /'əʊvəm/ *n* **ova** /'əʊvə/ *tech* an egg, esp. one that develops inside the mother's body

ow /aʊ/ *interj* (an expression of sudden slight pain)

owe /əʊ/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] 1 [(to, for)] to have to pay, for something already done or given: *I still owe the garage for those repairs.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *I owe the garage £20 (for the new tyre).* | (fig.) *We owe loyalty to our country.* | *He seems to think the world owes him a living.* (=he doesn't want to make any effort at anything) 2 [(to)] to feel grateful: *We owe a lot to our parents.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *We owe our parents a lot.* 3 **owe someone one** *infml* to be prepared to do someone a favour, in return for a favour that they have done for oneself —see also **IOU**

owe sthg. to sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T *not in progressive forms*] to have (something good) because of: *She owes her success to good luck.*

Ow-en /'əʊɪn/, **Lord David** (1938–) a British politician, Labour Foreign Secretary 1977–79. He was one of the **GANG OF FOUR**, Labour ministers who left the party in 1981 to form a centre party, the Social Democratic Party

(SDP). He became its leader in 1983, gave up the leadership in 1987 when most of its members joined with the Liberal Party, and was elected leader of a separate, smaller SDP in 1988. This was not a success, and he left British party politics in 1992.

Owen, Rob-ert /'rɒbət/ || 'rɑːbərt/ (1771–1858) a Welsh leader in the COOPERATIVE movement who started settlements in Scotland and the US

Owen, Wil-fred /'wɪlfrɪd/ (1893–1918) an English poet who wrote about the terrible events of the First World War. He was killed in the fighting just before the end of the war, and his poems were published (PUBLISH) after his death.

Ow-ens /'əʊɪnz/, **Jes-se** /'dʒesi/ (1914–80) an African-American who won several GOLD MEDALS (=first prizes) at the 1936 Olympics. His victories were seen as important because they disproved Hitler's ideas about white people from Northern Europe being better than people of other races.

ow-ing /'əʊɪŋ/ *adj* 1 [F (to)] still to be paid: *How much is owing to you?* | *There is still £5 owing.* 2 **owing to** because of: *Our flight was delayed, owing to the bad weather.* —see **DUE** (USAGE)

owl /aʊl/ *n* a night bird with large eyes and a loud call, *tu-wit tu-whoo*. According to old stories, owls are very wise. —see also **NIGHT OWL**

Owl and the Pus-sy-cat /,aʊl ənd ðə 'pusɪkæt/, **The** a NON-SENSE poem by Edward Lear, which begins:

*The owl and the pussycat
went to sea
In a beautiful
pea-green boat.
They took some honey
and plenty of money,
Wrapped up
in a five-pound note...*



owl

owl-et /'aʊlɪt/ *n* a young owl

owl-ish /'aʊlɪʃ/ *adj* (of a person) having a round solemn face and usu. glasses

owl-ish-ly /'aʊlɪʃli/ *adv* solemnly; in a wise manner

own ¹ /əʊn/ *determiner, pron* 1 belonging to oneself and to no one else: *It was (all) her own idea.* | *I only borrowed the book; it's not my own.* | *They treated the child as if she were their own.* | *The country has its own oil and doesn't need to import any.* | *For reasons of my own, I don't want to see him just yet.* | *Mind your own business!* (=Pay attention to your own affairs, not mine!) | *I didn't believe it till I saw it with my own eyes.* 2 **have/get one's 'own back (on someone)** to succeed in doing harm (to someone) in return for harm done to oneself; get one's REVENGE 3 **(all) on one's own: a** alone: *How do you like living on your own?* **b** without help: *I can't carry it on my own; it's too heavy.* —see also **come into one's own** (COME¹), **hold one's own** (HOLD¹), **one's own man** (MAN¹ (27))

▷ **USAGE Own** is used only after possessive words like *my, John's, the company's*, etc: *He has his own room/a room of his own.* It can be made stronger by adding **very**: *He has his very own room/a room of his very own.* ◁

own ² *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] 1 to possess (something), esp. by lawful right: *Who owns this house/this dog?* | *Do you own a car, sir?* —see also **DISOWN** 2 [+ (that); obj] *fml* to admit: *He owns (that) he was wrong.* **own to sthg.** *phr v* [T] *fml* to admit: *I must own to a feeling of anxiety.* [+*v-ing*] *I must own to feeling rather anxious.*

own up *phr v* [I (to)] to admit a fault or crime: *He owned up to the robbery.* | *She finally owned up to having taken the money.*

own-er /'əʊnə/ *n* a person who owns something, esp. by lawful right: *He is now the proud owner of a new car.* — ~ **ship** *n* [U]: *the ownership of the means of production* | *a dispute over ownership* | *home ownership*

owner-driv-er /,ɔː 'ɪ/ *n* *esp. BrE* a person who drives their own car

owner-oc-cu-pi-er /,ɔː 'ɪ/ *n* *esp. BrE* a person who owns

the house or flat in which they live —compare **TENANT** — **pied** /ˌpɪəˈtɪd/ *adj*: owner-occupied flats

own goal /ˌoʊnˈɡoʊl/ *n* *esp. BrE* **1** (in football) a GOAL against one's own team scored (SCORE) by mistake by one of one's own players **2** *infml* a mistake that makes one look foolish, esp. a remark or action that is against one's own interests: *the minister's spectacular own goal in his speech to parliament*

own label /ˌoʊnˈleɪbəl/ also **own brand** /ˌoʊnˈbrænd/ *BrE* || **store brand** *AmE* — *n* goods produced for and sold by certain shops, carrying the name of the shop rather than the producer: *Have you tried Sainsbury's own label tomato ketchup? It's very good.* —compare **TRADE NAME**

ox /ɒks/ *n* **ox-en** /ˈɒksən/ *BrE* **1** also **bullock** — a fully-grown male of the cattle family with its sexual organs removed, often used for heavy work on farms —compare **HEIFER**, **STEER** **2** any large animal of the cattle type

Ox-bridge /ˈɒksbrɪdʒ/ *BrE* (of, from, or typical of) the universities of Oxford and/or Cambridge: *Oxbridge students* —compare **REDBRICK**

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Oxford and Cambridge are the two oldest and most highly-regarded universities in Britain. Although both have tried in recent years to take more students from state schools, many Oxbridge students come from private or PUBLIC SCHOOLS, and Oxbridge GRADUATES often go on to become influential and powerful in British society. Because of this, people regard the two universities as being part of the British ESTABLISHMENT and class system, and use the word Oxbridge to refer to values and beliefs which they consider EXCLUSIVE, ELITIST, and out of touch with ordinary people. Others use the word to refer to TRADITIONAL values and high standards in learning and teaching. ◀

ox-cart /ˈɒkskɑːt/ *n* a cart pulled by oxen

Ox-fam, **OXFAM** /ˈɒksfæm/ *BrE* Oxford Committee for Famine Relief; a British CHARITY organization that helps people in poor countries, esp. by training them in farming methods, providing medicines, etc.. It raises some of its money through sales of new and used goods in its **Oxfam shops**: *He always looks as if he buys his clothes from Oxfam.*

Ox-ford /ˈɒksfəd/ *BrE* **1** a town on the river Thames in Oxfordshire, S England, where the local government for that COUNTY is based. It has many beautiful old buildings and is famous for its university. —see colour map on page 818 **2** Oxford University: *He went to/was educated at Oxford.*

Oxford Cir-cus /ˈɒksfərdˈsɪkəs/ *BrE* the place in London where Regent Street and Oxford Street cross, also the name of a nearby underground station

Oxford En-glish /ˈɒksfədˈlɪʃ/ *n* [U] one of the names for the form of the English language which is thought by many people to be the desirable standard —see also **BBC ENGLISH**, **RP**

Oxford En-glish Dic-tion-a-ry /ˈɒksfədˈlɪʃ dɪkʃənəri/ *BrE* **1** *abbrev. OED* a very large dictionary of English produced by Oxford University Press, famous for its completeness and for its explanation of the origins of words

Oxford Group /ˈɒksfədˈɡrʊp/ *BrE* [the] a group started by the American EVANGELIST Frank Buchman (1878–1961) which had many supporters at Oxford University in the 1920s. It was concerned with social, industrial, and international problems and later developed into the Moral Rearmament movement.

Oxford Move-ment /ˈɒksfədˈmʌvənt/ *BrE* [the] a religious movement within the Anglican Church in the 1800s, started by people at Oxford University, which tried to bring new life to Anglican religious practices by bringing in some TRADITIONS and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church

Ox-fords /ˈɒksfədz/ *BrE* || *AmE* (a pair of) men's leather shoes that tie with SHOELACES —compare **LOAFERS**

Ox-ford-shire /ˈɒksfərdʃaɪə/ *BrE* || *AmE* **1** *abbrev. Oxon* a COUNTY in S central England, in and around the Thames valley. It is mainly farmland, with some fine old market towns.

Oxford Street /ˈɒksfədˈstriːt/ *BrE* one of the main streets of central London, famous for its shops —see colour map on page 817

Oxford U-ni-ver-si-ty /ˈɒksfədˈjuːnɪvɜːsɪti/ *BrE* also **Oxford** — one of the oldest and most highly regarded British universities.

Students must pass a special examination before they are accepted by the university, and the students who go there often come from PUBLIC SCHOOLS. —see also **CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY**, **OXBRIDGE** (**CULTURAL NOTE**)

ox-ide /ˈɒksaɪd/ *n* [C;U] a chemical compound in which something else is combined with oxygen: *iron oxide*

ox-i-dize also **-dise** *BrE* /ˈɒksaɪz/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) combine with oxygen, esp. in such a way as to make or become RUSTY —**dization** /ˌɒksaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *BrE* || *AmE* **1** also **oxidation** /ˌɒksaɪˈdeɪʃən/ *BrE* || *AmE* *n* [U]

Ox-o /ˈɒksəʊ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of meat STOCK (4) made by Brooke Bond Foods Ltd and sold usu. in the form of dried STOCK CUBES

Ox-on /ˈɒksən/ *BrE* || *AmE* *written abbrev. for:* **1** Oxfordshire **2** (used esp. after the title of a degree) of Oxford University: *David Jones, BA Oxon*

Ox-o-ni-an /ˈɒksəniən/ *BrE* || *AmE* *n, adj* (a person) of or from Oxford or Oxfordshire

ox-y-a-cet-y-lene /ˌɒksaɪˈsetɪlɪn/ *n* [U] *tech* a mixture of oxygen and another gas (ACETYLENE) that produces a hot white flame: *an oxyacetylene torch*

ox-y-gen /ˈɒksɪdʒən/ *n* [U] a gas present in the air that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), is without colour, taste, or smell, and is necessary for all forms of life on Earth

ox-y-gen-ate /ˈɒksɪdʒəneɪt/ *n* [U] *tech* to add oxygen to (esp. the blood): *The heart pumps oxygenated blood through the arteries.*

oxygen mask /ˈɒksɪdʒənˈmɑːsk/ *n* an apparatus placed over the nose and mouth to supply oxygen

oxygen tent /ˈɒksɪdʒənˈtɛnt/ *n* a tent-like apparatus inside which oxygen can be supplied to people who are ill

ox-y-mo-ron /ˌɒksɪˈmɔːrən/ *n* *tech* a combination of words which seem to CONTRADICT (=disagree with) each other, such as “cruel kindness”

o-yez /əʊˈjez/ *interj* (a word used by a law official or, esp. in former times, by TOWN CRIERS giving news in the streets, to get people's attention)

oyster /ˈɔɪstər/ *n* **1** a flat shellfish, eaten cooked or raw, which can produce a jewel called a PEARL. Some people think that eating oysters makes one better at sex. **2** *the world is your oyster* saying you can go anywhere or do anything that you like: *I've got my degree now, so the world's my oyster!*

oyster bed /ˈɔɪstərˈbed/ *n* an area at the bottom of the sea where oysters are bred

oy-ster-catch-er /ˈɔɪstərˈkætʃər/ *n* a black and white seabird that eats shellfish

oz *written abbrev. for:* OUNCE (1) or OUNCES

Oz /ɒz/ *n* **1** *sl* another name for Australia **2** a magical land in the children's story *The Wizard of Oz*

O-zal /əʊˈzɑːl/ *n* **1** *Tur-gut* /ˈtʃɜːɡʊt/ *BrE* || *AmE* (1927–93) the president of Turkey since 1989, representing the Motherland Party

O-zarks /ˈəʊzɑːks/ *n* [the+P] a high area of forest land mainly in the states of Missouri and Arkansas, US

O-za-wa /əʊˈzɑːwə/ *n* **1** *Sei-ji* /ˈseɪdʒi/ (1935–) an American CONDUCTOR (=a person who directs the playing of a group of musicians), born in China

o-zone /ˈəʊzəʊn/ *n* [U] **1** *tech* a poisonous blue gas; type of oxygen **2** *infml* air that is pleasant to breathe, esp. near the sea: *a breath of ozone*

ozone-friend-ly /ˈəʊzəʊnˈfriːndli/ *adj* not containing chemicals which are harmful to the ozone layer: *an ozone-friendly aerosol/propellant*

ozone lay-er /ˈəʊzəʊnˈleɪər/ *n* [the] a layer in the earth's ATMOSPHERE in which ozone is formed, preventing harmful RADIATION from the sun reaching the earth. Recently it has been found that there are holes in the ozone layer, and scientists believe that the ozone layer is being damaged by the use of certain chemicals.

Oz-zie and Har-ri-et /ˈɒzi ænd ˈhæriət/ *n* Ozzie Nelson (1906–75) and his wife Harriet (1914–), who were in an American programme called *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* which was on during the 1950s and 1960s. The programme was about their family life and many people considered them to be a perfect American family.